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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

1516

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Prime Minister Jim Bolger of
New Zealand on February 28, 1991 (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Prime Minister Jim Bolger
Notetaker: Douglas Paal

DATE, TIME February 28, 1991 6:34 - 6:40 p.m. EST
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

Prime Minister Bolger telephoned the President to congratulate him on the successful completion of the Persian Gulf war. (U)

The President: Hello, Mr. Prime Minister. (U)

PM Bolger: Mr. President, good afternoon. Thank you for accepting my call. I know you are terribly busy. I wanted to call to congratulate you on the Gulf. It was quite remarkable. (U)

The President: You are nice to call. The problem is not all over, though I am very relieved. You are very, very nice to call. (U)

PM Bolger: I wanted to hand on my personal congratulations for your fine performance. (U)

The President: I was pleased we were all together on the objectives. It certainly was a team effort, we had a magnificent response. It was a marvelous thing. We have a new found credibility. We want to work with yourselves and others to find peace. Our country has not been so united and patriotic since World War II. (U)

PM Bolger: Another reason, your country has been pounded on. I hope you will gain the respect you should gain. Hope you gain satisfaction in the credibility, despite our sympathy for those who were killed. You must be pleased with your military men, your top staff, and their judgment. (U)

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The President: Not being a military man myself, except for the service we all do, I left it to my military leaders. I left it to my generals. I have total confidence in them. I caught hell for sending more troops, but I took their advice. It was terrible about the casualties, we lost nine Brits to friendly fire. The pilot will carry it with him the rest of his life. The Brits understand, but casualties were low. (Ø)

PM Bolger: I spoke with John Major this morning, he too was happy, while regretting the losses. He had wondered how formidable Iraq would be, and did not know. Your team is superb. (Ø)

The President: You are very nice, generous, and, I think, accurate, too. I am grateful for your call and have not lost one iota of affection for New Zealand. I hope to get going on our differences. (Ø)

PM Bolger: If I may just respond to that, there is no loss of affection here. We have strong admiration. We are working closely with Carla Hills on GATT. Yes, we have our differences. (Ø)

The President: Our Ambassador out there is an old friend, Della, she is your campaign manager. Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister, for your call. (U)

PM Bolger: Thank you. Have a little rest. (U)

The President: Over and out. (U)