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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

7629

October 21, 1991

**SIGNED**

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM F. SITTMANN

THROUGH:

DOUGLAS PAAL *DP*

FROM:

TORKEL PATTERSON *TP*

SUBJECT:

Memorandum of Telephone Conversation with Prime  
Minister Kaifu of Japan

At Tab A is the Memorandum of Telephone Conversation between the  
President and Japanese Prime Minister Kaifu of October 16, 1991.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memo at Tab I transmitting the Memorandum of  
Telephone Conversation at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab I Sittamnn Memo to Pearson

Tab A Memorandum of Telephone Conversation

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, SEC 3.5(B)  
WHITE HOUSE GUIDELINES, AUGUST 28, 1997  
BY *ASZ* NARA, DATE *6/11/01*

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

## MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Telephone Conversation with  
Prime Minister Kaifu of Japan

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu  
Interpreter: Ms. Frances Seeds  
Notetaker: Torkel Patterson

DATE, TIME: October 16, 1991, 7:38 - 7:49 a.m. EDT  
AND PLACE: Oval Office

Prime Minister Kaifu called the President to advise him of his decision to resign on November 5, 1991.

The President: Toshiki, good morning. (U)

PM Kaifu: Good morning, George. I am calling to say thank you very much for everything, this is why I called you today. (U)

Since I became Prime Minister, a year and a half ago from last summer, I have seen you many times. In the U.S. at Palm Springs, the Houston Summit, at Newport Beach, and Kennebunkport; and at the London Summit. I will never forget you and your family and your consideration towards me. (U)

It is an honor for me that I was able to work with you and consult on SII, Super 301, and assistance to the Soviet Union; I was honored to consult and work with you. (U)

On the basis of my reflection upon the Recruit Scandal, I pursued a political reform bill in the Diet. However, because of my shortage of capability, the bill was unable to pass. There was opposition not only from the opposition parties, but also from the ruling party. I decided to take responsibility and resign on the 5th of November when I complete my term. (U)

The whole nation and the Japanese people are looking forward to your visit and I am also very much looking forward to your visit. Today I was briefed by Vice Foreign Minister Owada and we discussed how we are going to prepare for your visit and make this a great success with an enthusiastic welcome by the Japanese people. (U)

In no matter what capacity, I will remain fully committed to supporting you. Solid Japan-U.S. relations are of the utmost importance. I will also not forget your personal friendship and

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confidence in me and I will work for the cause of the U.S.-Japan relationship. (C)

The President: Toshiki, I am so appreciative of this phone call. It is with personal sadness that I receive this phone call. Leaving out all the politics and all the diplomacy, and I consider you a very good friend. It has been a joy working with you. You have always been honest and straightforward with me. You have always worked to make the U.S.-Japan relationship stronger and I will never forget that. (C)

I hope you know how much I valued the Japanese contribution to the Gulf War, the support you gave there was historically significant and was very reassuring for me on a personal basis. (C)

Yes, I am looking forward to coming to Japan and I hope that you and I will have some time to have a personal visit. I wish you well, and hope that maybe some day history will figure out how we can work together again. (C)

Both you and your wife will always be welcome here, in the Oval Office or maybe some day in Kennebunkport, or anywhere else. You are our friends and we will not forget that. Thank you very much for the call. (C)

PM Kaifu: George, thank you for your heartwarming words. (U)

I am praying for the health of your mother. Some day, if I may take advantage of your kind words, I would like to visit you and your family and your mother at Kennebunkport. My best regards to you and Barbara and best regards to your mother. (C)

One other thing, regards to Ranger and Millie. (U)

The President: I will pass that on. I look forward to seeing you both when we come to Tokyo. (C)

PM Kaifu: Thank you very, very much for your kindness to me, George. (C)

The President: Good bye my friend, see you soon. We will miss you. (C)

END OF CONVERSATION

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