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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telecon with Francois Mitterrand, President of France

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Francois Mitterrand, French President
Interpreter: Carol Wolters
Notetaker: Anthony Wayne

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: June 30, 1992, 11:40 - 11:49 a.m.
The White House

The President: Francois, comment allez-vous?

President Mitterrand: Fine and you, George?

The President: I am calling you on a couple of matters. First, on the situation in Bosnia. Congratulations on your visit to Sarajevo. It took courage and what we call guts. From the TV reporter, your visit seemed to give hope to many of the citizens there. What are your impressions? (Ø)

President Mitterrand: First, Sarajevo is a city being destroyed. The suffering is great. People are firing at all times on civilians and on buildings. When I was there Sunday, there was a lot of firing, but I was told that this was less than usual. Because of the decisions taken by the U.N., and improvements in the situation, I was able to see and speak with a number of officials and diplomats who told me that the Serbians were willing to pull out of the airport. This is a first step at least. (Ø)

(The President was disconnected during Mitterrand's comments.)

The President: I am very sorry about the disconnection. I didn't get to hear all of your impressions. (U)

President Mitterrand: It's okay. In summary, when it comes to Bosnia and Sarajevo, now the U.N. controls the airport so assistance can get in. (U)

The President: Do you think they can keep it open? We were prepared to do more in the U.N., but maybe that is not needed now given what you did and other developments. (Ø)

President Mitterrand: For the present, Sarajevo seems to be much better off but for the war in general, we are far from the end of it. I think we will only be able to end it by organizing an international conference such as you have set up for the Middle East. (S)

The President: That's interesting. But do you feel that there is now no need for another U.N. resolution? (S)

President Mitterrand: As far as another resolution is concerned, let's speak about that Sunday night. The situation is changing given all that has been done in the U.N. and the threats of action that have been made, particularly yours. Why don't we discuss this at dinner on Sunday? (S)

The President: Good. We'll talk about that Sunday. We have a lot of items to discuss on our agenda. I did want to mention one point on GATT. When I talked with Helmut over the weekend, he mentioned that he had had a long talk with you in Lisbon about the Uruguay Round. I know the Danish vote created new sensitivities and that you have concerns about your farmers' reaction to a U.S. EC agreement on agriculture. (S)

President Mitterrand: Yes, it is true. We all have our difficulties, and the farmers are not the most willing partners. (U)

The President: Exactly. (U)

President Mitterrand: Helmut Kohl told me that Jim Baker might be coming to Europe this week. If he does, I'd be happy to invite him to stop here and to see me. (S)

The President: Well, we had not exactly decided yet if he would go. But if there is a way it can be helpful, he will definitely come. We were considering the possibility of another ministerial meeting in Brussels on the Round. It is definitely worth one more try before Munich. Helmut feels strongly that the Round should not dominate or diminish the Summit, and we certainly do not want to do anything that could harm the Summit. (S)

President Mitterrand: I am ready to meet with Secretary Baker when he comes, especially since Helmut Kohl suggested it and is so interested. (S)

The President: Good, I'll talk to Jim. I think it is worth doing and especially going on to Brussels for serious talks with the Commission. We need progress in agriculture but also in all the areas, including services and market access. (S)

Francois Mitterrand: Yes, and in any case you can be assured that we in France want to see the negotiations succeed. They are essential for starting up commerce again. But I do not know if we can find a basis for agreement. All sides have been keeping their basic agenda from the others. This makes it hard. (S)

The President: But I gather from my talks with Helmut that he thinks we are close. We agree, and think it is worth a try. (Ø)

President Mitterrand: I'll be available in Paris to meet with Secretary Baker. (Ø)

The President: I hope it works out for you to come to Camp David. (Ø)

President Mitterrand: Yes, me, too. I hope you are doing well.

The President: Yes, I am in good shape physically. Politically, I am not doing as well. It's tough here. My health is fine, but this is a strange political year. We can talk more on Sunday. (Ø)

President Mitterrand: Yes, it is a difficult political year. I'll see you Sunday. Oh, I wanted to mention that if I didn't take your call on Saturday, it was because I had already started my trip to Sarajevo. (U)

The President: We understood, and it took courage to do what you did. You have my full admiration. (U)

President Mitterrand: You did much more during the war. (Ø)

The President: I don't know about that. I'll see you Sunday. (U)

Mitterrand: A bientot. (U)

The President: A bientot. (U)

-- End of Conversation --