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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Prime Minister John Major of Great Britain on November 20, 1992

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Prime Minister John Major
Notetaker: Tony Wayne

DECLASSIFIED
PER E.O. 13526

2012-2390-MR
Eg 4/10/14

DATE, TIME 09:42 - 09:51am EST

AND PLACE: Oval Office

The President: John? (U)

Prime Minister Major: George, how are you? So sorry to hear about your mother. It was very sad news indeed. (U)

The President: Well, aren't you sweet to say so. She's been failing, and as I've told our friends this is truly a case where it's a blessing. I went up yesterday with my daughter Dorothy, and she was struggling to breathe. But it is sweet of you to mention. (U)

Prime Minister Major: I was very pleased to meet her at Kennebunkport. Whatever the circumstances, it's always wrenching. (U)

The President: Exactly, exactly. On a happier subject. I've just been briefed on our agreed positions and wanted to compliment you on the catalytic role you've played with the EC. We are ready to go along with this agreement. I don't want to bother you with our political problems because you'll ask for equal time. But in our debates here, we have come down on the side of the bigger picture. Ed Madigan and Carla Hills have done a great job, and we're very grateful for your role on this agreement. I hope they don't ask for any last minute, extra concessions. Our agricultural people will have real problems with this. But we hope the Commission knows that we are accepting this because it is in the overall national and international interest. (U)

Prime Minister Major: I agree strongly. I understand the difficulties in the US. We have our own difficulties here. UK farmers are edgy and have been sounding off. I'm pleased the deal appears to be closed. I believed there was a slight snag on 21 - 22% in export subsidy reductions last night, but I understand from you that it has been solved? (U)

The President: Yes, I believe it's been solved between Madigan

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and MacSharry this morning. Once again we're the ones who rolled over and put our ankles in the air, if you get what I mean. (Ø)

Prime Minister Major: That's great news. It was difficult, but if it's settled it's overall great news. We can now go to Geneva with it. (U)

The President: On balance, I think it is an agreement in which we can take pride. I hope you're happy with it. We did worry about the last point, but in the end we accepted. I guess they're meeting at 10:00 am. How long should it take? Will they just get together and say it's agreed? (Ø)

Prime Minister Major: Yes, the meeting is at 10:00 am your time. I hope it won't take long. It will be proposed by Andriessen and MacSharry. The UK commissioner, Leon Brittan, will support it, as should most of the other commissioners. The French may fight a rear-guard action, but I think we can overcome that and go on to solve the loose ends in Geneva. (Ø)

The President: Well, Carla just talked to Franz Andriessen. After their meeting concludes, Hills and Madigan will give a briefing here. We'll want to get the message out quickly both nationally and internationally. I think we can make some good arguments that avoiding a trade war is good for everybody and that all will gain from a Round accord. But I think we will wait until the Commission meeting has ended. (Ø)

Prime Minister Major: That is wise. There's a bit of bad blood over here. The French are angry at Britain, and me in particular, but that's every day business in the Community. I look forward to an agreement being made so I can publicly thank Hills and Madigan. (Ø)

The President: Well that's very nice. Listen, I mean it about your role -- you were the ultimate catalyst. I salute you. We'll wait with Carla and Ed to hear from their counterparts. (Ø)

Prime Minister Major: That would be great. (U)

The President: I sent you a love letter yesterday. Did you get it? (U)

Prime Minister Major: I haven't seen the letter yet. (U)

The President: You were very sweet in a speech you made in London. In it, I also told you about my conversation with the new President. I told him that I thought if it fit his schedule it would be a good idea to meet with you when you visit. He said that of all the calls he received, he really appreciated your call the most because you told him straight out of our personal relationship and of the special relationship between the UK and the U.S. I think it spoke well of his character. I appreciated that enormously. I think you'll find he'll be good to work with. We went over nineteen subjects; seventeen were foreign. You know we disagree on many domestic issues. I was very impressed with

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him and his knowledge. I think on something as fundamental as the special relationship with you, he'll be very good. (Ø)

Prime Minister Major: I'm very pleased to hear that. I'm looking forward to seeing you just before Christmas. We'll see about a meeting with Clinton. (U)

The President: We can sing some Christmas carols. (U)

Prime Minister Major: Please give my love to Barbara. (U)

The President: All the best. Goodbye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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