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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Violeta Chomorro of Nicaragua on
December 3, 1992 (Ø)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Chamorro of Nicaragua
Interpreter: Stephanie Van Reigersberg
Notetakers: John McShane/Roseanne Hill

DATE, TIME December 3, 1992, 3:54 - 4:04pm EST
AND PLACE: Oval Office

The President: Hello, Violeta. How are you? (U)

President Chamorro: Good Don George, how are you? (U)

The President: Muy bien. Listen, I'm calling you on this money. We're releasing \$54 million that's been withheld. We're trying to arrange it so the bulk of the money will be of an early spendout nature. As you know, its difficult to do that. We support your efforts to strengthen the economy and democracy, and we hope this aid will help you with your economic reform program. The aid hold, as I've told you before, never reflected any lack of confidence in you personally. (Ø)

Our difficulty has been these property problems and the killings. We need more progress on resolving the property situation and in investigating these killings in order to do what I want to do before I leave office. The assassination of your friend, the businessman, was terrible. I know he was your friend. I hope this can be resolved quickly. So anyway, I salute you for what you're trying to do. I hope you can do more and that something can be done with those people who are making things difficult for you. But at least there is some good news here with this release of funds. (Ø)

President Chamorro: Yes George. Thank you very much. Thank you so much George. It was such a coincidence that I got the good news last night at 8:30 - just the right time. As we say in Nicaragua, the bank was at the bottom of the barrel. It was a very dangerous time. We had nothing more to give the people. So the news of the \$54 million was very welcome. There was a true danger to our democracy. (Ø)

I understand very well that you have nothing against me. We have been good friends and will continue to be. You and Barbara and I. Just call me at my home any time. I would always be happy to hear from you. (Ø)

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I know that the disbursement was difficult for you. It had to go through many agencies. So I want to thank you and tell you that we are working very hard on the property issue. With regard to the property we had good news yesterday on the case relating to the North American-Nicaraguan boxer, Alexis Arguello, who you were kind enough to invite when I was on my visit. (Ø)

On the murder of Sequeira we are making progress, working with the Spanish police, and we hope to have it resolved quickly. We want good news on this soon. I hope by the time you leave everything will be cleaned up. (Ø)

President Bush. That's good going. I'm off running to a meeting. Barbara and I are planning to return to Houston. We send much love and best wishes to you for a wonderful Christmas. Let's keep working on these problems and see if we can't make more progress before I leave here. (Ø)

President Chamorro: Yes George, my best to you and your family for a merry Christmas. I got your letter yesterday. The one dated the 16th of November. Once again you remembered to ask about Marco. He is doing great. He will be home the 18th of this month. Send me your phone number in Houston, so we can stay in touch. My best to you. (Ø)

President Bush. We'll do it. Good luck and good bye my friend.
(U)

-- End of Conversation --

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