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THE WHITE HOUSE

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: The President's Meeting with FRG
Free Democratic Party Chairman,
Otto Graf Lambsdorff

PARTICIPANTS: US
The President
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs
Ambassador Robert D. Blackwill (Notetaker)

FRG
FDP Chairman Otto Graf Lambsdorff
Ambassador Juergen Ruhfus
Hagen Graf Lambsdorff (Economic Counselor)
Klaus-Peter Gottwald (Interpreter)

DATE, TIME February 8, 1989, 4:15 p.m. - 4:20 p.m.,
AND PLACE: Oval Office

The President asked Count Lambsdorff how his visit was going.

The Count responded that he had just had a good conversation with General Scowcroft on SNF and had seen many friends in the Congress during the last few days.

The President said he wanted to stress that there were no lasting differences between Bonn and Washington on the problem of German companies furnishing Libya with CW technology. There had been some outrageous newspaper columns in the United States on the subject, and the President wanted to stress that he knew the Chancellor was completely committed to doing the right thing. The Administration had nothing but the highest possible respect for West Germany.

Continuing, the President noted that he was very interested in how public opinion was developing in the FRG on nuclear issues. He said he was troubled by some of the stories he read concerning some views on this subject in West Germany.

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Count Lambsdorff stressed that our two countries have the same target, to keep Western Europe strong. At the same time, the present coalition did not want to commit political suicide by pushing SNF modernization forward too quickly.

Turning to our internal policy reviews, the President stressed that there would be no procrastination. We would complete the studies as soon as prudently possible and would then move forward in our dealings with the Soviet Union on the basis of agreement with our Allies.

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