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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with Manfred Woerner, Secretary General of NATO

PARTICIPANTS: The President
James A. Baker III, Secretary of State
William Taft IV, U.S. Ambassador to NATO
John H. Sununu, Chief of Staff
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
Paul Wolfowitz, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Department of Defense
Reginald Bartholomew, Under Secretary for Security Assistance, Science and Technology, Department of State
Robert D. Blackwill, Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs (Notetaker)

DECLASSIFIED
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AS AMENDED
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Manfred Woerner, Secretary General
Amedeo deFranchis, Deputy Secretary General
James Cunningham, Director of Secretary General's Private Office

DATE, TIME December 4, 1989, 9:40 - 9:50 am
AND PLACE: Secretary General's Office
NATO Headquarters

Secretary General Woerner: It is great to have you here. (U)

The President: In my meetings with Gorbachev I had the distinct feeling that he was anxious to see us move forward. (C)

Secretary General Woerner: That is good to hear. (U)

The President: Even the weather didn't deter us. We had eight and a half hours of meetings. They were very frank discussions. There was no visible frustration or anger on Gorbachev's part. He is concerned about the German question. (C)

Secretary General Woerner: I am especially interested in your exchanges on Germany, and the role of the Alliances. (C)

The President: There should be no dissolution of the Alliances. Gorbachev expressed concern about the German question. He mentioned Kohl by name. I said this was an emotional issue for the Germans. I said that Kohl had displayed no recklessness, and

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Kohl did not want to move recklessly. (S)

On the Baltic states, Gorbachev said he wants to manage the situation peacefully. (C)

Secretary Baker: Gorbachev said the Alliances were a force for stability. (C)

General Scowcroft: He talked about transforming the Alliances into political organizations to serve as forces for stability. (C)

Secretary General Woerner: It would be difficult to continue reductions in a CFE II with only U.S. and Soviet manpower being affected. (C)

The President: We agreed to a CFE Summit. (C)

Secretary General Woerner: We need to stress the new and old roles of NATO. The future of Europe should not be left to the EC alone. This organization must continue to be at the center of transatlantic cooperation. NATO can be a main factor for stability as well as an instrument for change. (C)

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