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04b. Memcon	Memorandum of conversation between George Bush and Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis of Greece [SENT FOR AGENCY REFERRAL] (6 pp.)	12/12/91	(b)(1)	C

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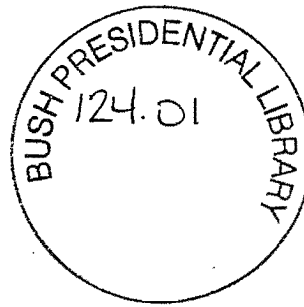
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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

(b)(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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(b)(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



0015

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis of Greece (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
The Vice President
John H. Sununu, Chief of Staff
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs
Lawrence Eagleburger, Deputy Secretary of State
Michael Sotirhos, Ambassador to Greece
Thomas Niles, Assistant Secretary of State
for European and Canadian Affairs
Nelson Ledsky, U.S. Special Cyprus Coordinator
David Gompert, Senior Director for European and Soviet Affairs, NSC Staff, Notetaker
Katherine Stewart, Interpreter

Greece
Constantine Mitsotakis, Prime Minister
Antonios Samaras, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Christos Zacharakis, Ambassador to the United States
Efthymios Christodoulou, Minister of National Economy
Byron Polydoros, Deputy Minister to the Prime Minister
Constantine Lymberopoulos, Director of Political Affairs
Loucas Tsilas, Director of the Diplomatic Office of the Prime Minister
Dora Bakoyiannis, Member of Parliament
Anna Kyrtsoy, Interpreter

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: December 12, 1991, 11:20 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Cabinet Room

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Declassify on: OADR

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PER E.O. 13526
2009-0652-MR
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The President: Before we begin in here, I just want to say that we had a wonderful visit in Greece and I have nothing but the greatest respect for what your government is doing. I know I express the view of all Americans -- we feel that U.S.-Greek relations are strong -- the strongest in the history of relations between our two countries. A lot of the credit goes to our able Ambassador Mike Sotirhos. (U)

Well I want you to use this meeting to bring up anything you would like. And I want to learn your views -- on Cyprus -- you know the UNSYG is going to be here this afternoon. The Yugoslavia problem is a concern and I welcome your advice. If we don't get to it here, we can continue over lunch, but I want us to talk about anything you would like if that is agreeable to you. (Ø)

Prime Minister Mitsotakis: Thank you for your kind words. Let me say that I am happy to be here and that I am determined to continue as Prime Minister the same course -- the same course of cooperation with your country. (Ø)

I want to thank you for your visit to Greece. The Greek people appreciated your visit. The United States and Greece have come back to their traditional friendship. Our relations have never been better than they are today. Your Ambassador is great. (U)

I agree to the procedures for our talks. And first I would like to say a few words on Cyprus. You have made a great effort. As you know we thought in September that we would make progress.

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But Turkey is being drawn east. I want to ask you to show your determination so as to open up a new effort. Butros Ghali is a good man. We must not lose momentum. Resolution 716 is a good one. If we start from that point and with your active support and assistance from the UN I am sure the results will be satisfactory. (Ø)

Vassiliou told me to tell you he will be ready to go. We want an "international conference." This is the UN term, in the resolution. But we are more interested in the substance than in the form. We want Baker to come to our region as soon as possible. Please announce that Baker will go to Greece, Turkey, and Cyprus. Say that the U.S. will use its influence to maintain momentum. (Ø)

The President: I will ask Jim Baker about whether he can go. I will let you know. (Ø)

Prime Minister Mitsotakis: I mentioned this to Secretary Baker.
(U)

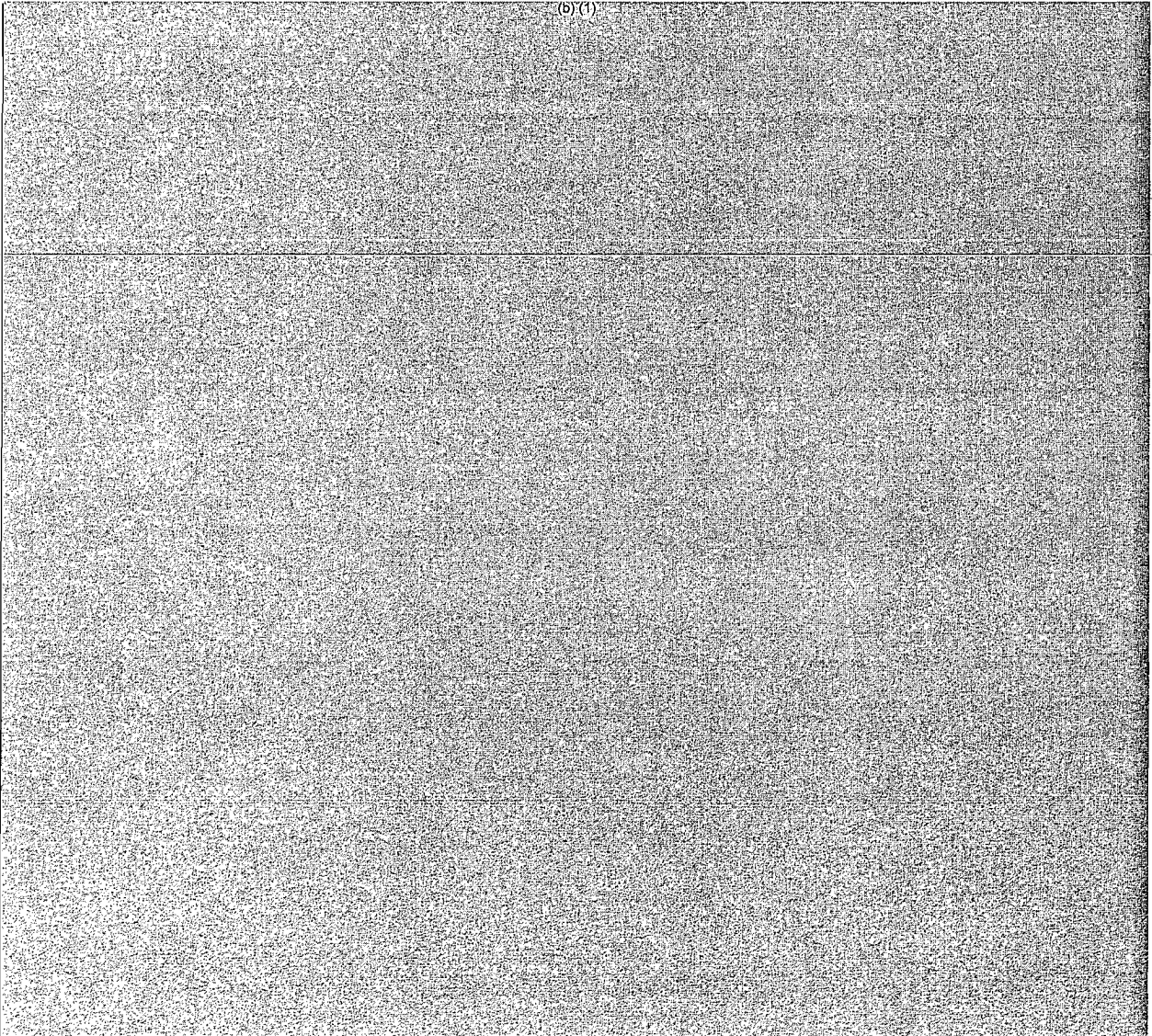
The President: We want to help. Would a trip like that help before there is more contact between you and Demirel? (Ø)

Prime Minister Mitsotakis: From what I understand, Nelson Ledsky is coming to the area in January. (Ø)

Ambassador Ledsky: Yes, I'll be in the region in January. I'll be going to Athens, Ankara and Nicosia. (Ø)

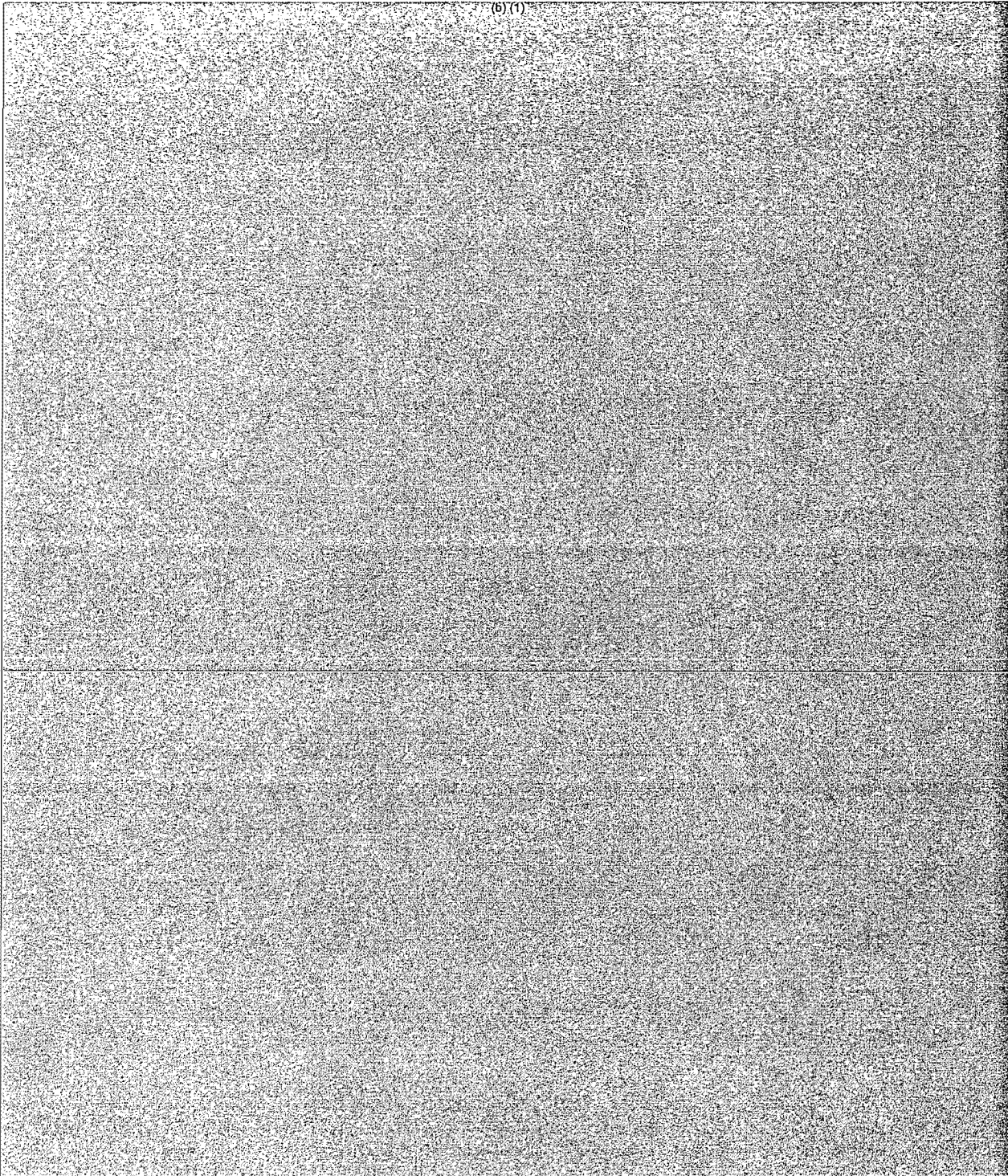
The President: Our commitment is not diplomatic fluff. We thought that we'd get a solution to this thing, with your help of course. But the Yilmaz government pulled back. And, as it turned out, I don't think it affected the elections. And now we've got a whole new ball game. I shared my views on Cyprus with Demirel and he was not at all negative. (Ø)

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Foreign Minister Samaras: We are considering the possibility of U.S.-Greek cooperation in the Balkans. There is extreme turbulence there. We have proposed a non-governmental conference on the Balkans, including the Turks. We are concerned with them

moving to a market economy, their civil-military relations, etc. We will discuss this with Deputy Assistant Secretary Ralph Johnson during his visit. There is an important role for Greece to play in the Balkans. (Ø)

The President: Inasmuch as you mentioned the Balkans, I'm interested in learning your views. I'll have Larry Eagleburger explain the U.S. position. But we should leave that as the first item to discuss over lunch. (Ø)

-- End of Conversation --