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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

0019

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: The President's Telephone Conversation with Prime Minister Mitterrand of France

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
Barry F. Lowenkron, NSC (Notetaker)  
President Mitterrand

DATE, TIME January 24, 1989, 9:21 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.  
AND PLACE: Oval Office

The President thanked President Mitterrand for his warm message of congratulations. President Mitterrand said that it was only natural for him to send the President congratulations on his inauguration.

The President asked President Mitterrand whether he would be traveling to Tokyo for the Emperor's funeral. President Mitterrand replied that he had not yet made up his mind, but that he was leaning toward going. The President then suggested that the two get together in Tokyo to renew their friendship and consult on key issues. He stressed that there would be no set agenda. The President then raised the idea of having lunch with President Mitterrand in Tokyo.

President Mitterrand said that he looked forward to working closely with the President. He characterized his relations with the President as going beyond strictly official, and joked about how friendly and "disrespectful" his house dog had been to the President. President Mitterrand then asked whether the President would be announcing his trip to Tokyo today. The President responded that the White House would issue the announcement later in the day. He then repeated his interest in meeting with President Mitterrand.

President Mitterrand replied that, in that case, he would go to Tokyo, and that he would accept the President's invitation to lunch. The President said his plan was to have his bilaterals on February 23, and proposed lunch on that date. He stressed that if President Mitterrand could not make lunch on the 23rd, they could have lunch at a later date.

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32 8/21/09

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President Mitterrand asked whether the President would be in Tokyo both the 23rd and 24th? The President said yes. President Mitterrand then asked whether the President's announcement would include his specific schedule of activities in Tokyo? The President said that the announcement would be general, making no mention of specific events in Tokyo. President Mitterrand said that he would issue an announcement of his trip to Tokyo, but that it would make no mention of a luncheon with the President.

President Mitterrand said that the funeral in Tokyo was not an event that one looked forward to. But, he said he did look forward to meeting with the President. He promised that his dog would be more respectful in the future. The President said that his dog was pregnant. President Mitterrand asked that the President convey his warmest regards to Mrs. Bush. The President said he looked forward to seeing President Mitterrand soon.

The conversation concluded at 9:30 a.m.

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Originally Processed With FOIA(s):  
2000-0429-F

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**Series:** Presidential Telcon Files  
**Subseries:**

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**OA/ID Number:** CF01731  
**Folder ID Number:** CF01731-001

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**Folder Title:**  
[Memorandum of Telephone Conversations (Telcons) - January 1989-July 1989]: January 1989

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