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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with Prime Minister
Shamir of Israel

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Prime Minister Shamir

DATE, TIME January 25, 1989, 11:03 a.m. - 11:07 a.m. EST

PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: Hello, Mr. Prime Minister. How are you?

Prime Minister Shamir: I'm fine. I'm happy to be able to call you Mr. President.

The President: I just wanted to call to thank you for your very warm message of congratulations, and to say that Secretary Baker, General Scowcroft and I look forward to working with you. As you so generously mentioned in your letter, my team and I are familiar with the area and its problems, and I want to assure you of our maximum possible cooperation.

Prime Minister Shamir: Thank you very much for your call. I look forward to meeting with you and to further cooperation between us to achieve peace in the area. It is in the best interests of all of us to work together closely.

The President: I agree. We want the best possible lines of communication, with no surprises. We want to move forward along the lines of the principles that we've articulated, with which I think you're in general agreement. Thanks again for your message. I know that this is the first of many conversations between us.

Prime Minister Shamir: It was very kind of you to call.

The President: Please tell Shulamit that Barbara also appreciated your message.

Prime Minister Shamir: And please give our best to Barbara. We watched the Inauguration on television with great interest.

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The President: It was a very good start for the Administration, and produced a lot of good feelings throughout the country.

Prime Minister Shamir: I'm sure you'll have great success.

The President: Thank you, and I look forward to seeing you.

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