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THE WHITE HOUSE

0019

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: The President's Telephone Conversation with Pope John Paul II

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
Paul Lebras, WHSR (Notetaker)

Pope John Paul II

DATE, TIME January 26, 1989, 12:02 p.m. - 12:03 p.m. and  
AND PLACE: 12:14 p.m. - 12:16 p.m., Oval Office

The President said he was calling to thank the Pope for his warm note of congratulations. He remembered the warmth of his reception, both at the Vatican and here in the United States.

The Pope said he again wished to congratulate the President.

(At the point the connection was cut-off and resumed after a few minutes.)

The President said they had been cut off but he again wished to thank the Pope for his message. He said he had great respect for all that the Pope was doing in the cause of world peace. He wanted the Pope to know that he was welcome to call at any time to discuss things of concern. The President said he also looked forward to seeing the Pope before too long. He had a very good relationship with the Reverend Pio Laghi, the Vatican representative here. He was also well acquainted with Cardinal O'Connor. So he was very familiar with the Pope's official family here.

The Pope said he wished to send greetings to both the President's family and the entire United States.

The President thanked the Pope. He said, once again, that he looked forward to seeing him soon and that he should not hesitate to call.

The Pope said he was very grateful for the offer which should prove useful.

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