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THE WHITE HOUSE

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JL 9/8/09

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with President Mitterrand of France (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Mitterrand
Adrian A. Basora, NSC Staff (Notetaker)

DATE, TIME November 17, 1989, 9:33 - 9:44 a.m.
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: Comment allez vous? I'm calling because I felt it was important to discuss my meeting with President Gorbachev with you as soon as possible. Secretary General Woerner has invited the heads of NATO governments to Brussels on December 4 for a readout on the Malta meeting. I plan to go. It would be wonderful if you could be there too. I was intrigued by your invitation to visit with you at Bregancon, but unfortunately it will not be possible the week of December 4. My meeting with President Gorbachev in Malta comes in the midst of a critical point in our budget cycle where I hear final appeals from members of the Cabinet. (S)

President Mitterrand: Yes, yes, yes. (S)

The President: After Malta I really want to get together with you in a relaxed manner. I would like to propose that we meet on December 15. (S)

President Mitterrand: That would be fine, approximately; on December 15 I have an official visit to Switzerland. Perhaps we can do it on December 14 or December 16. (S)

The President: That would be very, very useful. I am anxious to talk to you in broad terms and get your philosophical view of developments in Europe. (S)

President Mitterrand: I will come to your continent. (S)

The President: We should also have a long talk before Malta. I know it's my turn to visit you, but I can't get away from Washington before Malta, and I am assuming that you cannot come here before then. But we should set aside a time to talk over the phone for at least an hour. (S)

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President Mitterrand: That would be easy to arrange. As to our meeting in person, shall we agree on December 14 or 16? ~~(S)~~

The President: I am sure that December 16 is OK. (U)

President Mitterrand: Yes, that would be fine. (U)

The President: We've got a deal! (U)

President Mitterrand: Perhaps I can arrive there on the evening of the 15th. (U)

The President: Where will it be? (U)

President Mitterrand: In one of the French territories in the Caribbean. (U)

The President: That will be wonderful. I assume we will not need neckties and it will be a small group. (U)

Regarding Malta, I am not going to give you any surprises. Seriously, I want your careful advice, and at our Caribbean meeting, we can talk about the longer term future of Europe and about the German question. ~~(S)~~

President Mitterrand: Absolutely. (U)

The President: Before that, however, in our conversation next week I would like any suggestions you have as to constructive proposals that I might make at Malta, and about any pitfalls you foresee. ~~(S)~~

President Mitterrand: I would be available to talk about Malta on November 28 or on November 30. ~~(S)~~

The President: Either day would be fine for me. (U)

President Mitterrand: We will let you know about the specific location for our December 16 meeting. Meanwhile, I have noted December 4 on my calendar. (U)

The President: I would, of course, understand if you were represented on December 4 by someone else, but it would be great if you could come in person. ~~(S)~~

President Mitterrand: I will go myself. ~~(S)~~

-- End of Conversation--

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