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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with President
Hosni Mubarak of Egypt (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Mubarak
Notetaker: C. David Welch, NSC

DATE, TIME November 17, 1989, 3:30 - 3:40 pm EST
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President initiated the call; the connection was interrupted once, but restored. (U)

The President: How are you, Hosni? (U)

President Mubarak: Very well, George. It's nice to hear your voice. (U)

The President: This is some great news about your soccer team making the World Cup Playoffs. It is very exciting and we're proud of Egypt. It's great for all Egyptians, your victory 1-0 over Algeria. You know what a sports fan -- a nut -- I am, so I love it! (U)

President Mubarak: Well, thank you very much for that, George, we too are really very proud. (U)

The President: I just wanted to give you a sense of how the meeting with Shamir went. It was a very direct meeting. I can't tell you what we succeeded in doing, but I hope it was something. It was a frank meeting, I mean really frank. (Ø)

President Mubarak: Thanks very much for your help with him. (Ø)

The President: Jim Baker has been trying very hard to get this moving. I just wanted you to know that I don't want it to die. (Ø)

President Mubarak: We are discussing with the Palestinians and we are doing the maximum for it. We are now waiting for some points from the Palestinians, as I think Esmat (abd el-Meguid) told Baker. (Ø)

The President: That's good. I had a good visit with your colleague, President Ben Ali. He's a good man -- I had not met him before but he's an impressive fellow. (Ø)

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President Mubarak: Yes, he is a good man. (Ø)

The President: I was frank with him about my concerns with his neighbor. I think he and you and I are on the same wavelength. (Ø)

President Mubarak: I agree with you. (Ø)

At this point the telephone connection was interrupted; contact was restored several minutes later. (U)

The President: I'm sorry, we got cut off. I had just a couple of more points about the meeting with Shamir: (Ø)

-- We told Shamir that we could not provide any assurances that would undermine the five point framework. (Ø)

-- We told Shamir Israel must be flexible when it comes to including outsiders on the Palestinian delegation. (Ø)

-- And we told Shamir that we wouldn't force Israel into a dialogue with the PLO, but that we also could not guarantee what the PLO or individual Palestinians might say. (Ø)

-- Shamir said that Israel cannot negotiate with the PLO. I told him this is not our intention, and I assured him it is not your intention. (Ø)

-- Shamir also said that neither side should try to transform the dialogue into negotiations on final status. I agreed and told him that I was sure you agreed as well. (Ø)

-- So I think the meeting was useful. (Ø)

-- We want to set up an early meeting of the three foreign ministers, the best venue for settling the major outstanding questions. But we need first Palestinian acceptance of the five points. Jim says we will consider seriously any assurances they may want in that context, so long as these assurances are consistent with the five points. (Ø)

-- I understand that the Palestinian side raised a number of questions, and that Jim Baker has relayed our answers to Abdel Meguid. What we are suggesting protects legitimate Palestinian interests as regards their participation and what could be discussed in meetings with Israel. Please convey that to the others. (Ø)

-- As always, we are looking to you for advice and assistance. (Ø)

President Mubarak: Very good. Abd el-Meguid will give them reassurances tomorrow regarding your views. (Ø)

The President: My best to your family and congratulations again on the soccer victory. (Ø)

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