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THE WHITE HOUSE

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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Call from Prime Minister
Fenech Adami of Malta (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Eddie Fenech Adami, Prime Minister
Notetaker: Robert L. Hutchings, NSC Staff

DATE, TIME November 28, 1989, 1:45 - 1:52 p.m. EST
AND PLACE: Oval Office

The President initiated the call. (U)

The President: How are you? (U)

Prime Minister Fenech Adami: I apologize for troubling you, but you said in your telephone call yesterday to contact you if any problems arose. Well, there is a small problem. I understand your program has changed, that there will be a meeting between us only at the airport. Yesterday, you expressed confidence in my and my government. If we do not meet in my office, it will be extremely damaging to me politically. (U)

The President: I am disappointed that you feel that way. I don't see any change in my schedule. As you know, I am supposed to visit the Sixth Fleet. I am told by our security people that there are problems with demonstrations. This could be counterproductive to our meeting. (U)

Prime Minister Fenech Adami: I assure you there is no possibility of demonstrations. I have looked into this and have taken steps. I can assure you there will be no demonstrations. To meet at the airport only would be very damaging to me. (U)

The President: I am disappointed in what you are telling me. In selecting Malta for this meeting, we were demonstrating our support for you and your government. (U)

Prime Minister Fenech Adami: I said to your Ambassador that you could come to my office in five to ten minutes. I frankly can't understand why this should not be done. (U)

The President: What is Gorbachev planning to do? (U)

Prime Minister Fenech Adami: I am told he would do as you do.
(U)

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The President: Well, I am disappointed. I will go back and look into this, but we have a complicated schedule. (Ø)

Prime Minister Fenech Adami: I thought it was all arranged. It would only take a minute to get to my office. (Ø)

The President: Who told you it was set? Who told you that I would go to town. (Ø)

Prime Minister Fenech Adami: Well..., arrangements had been made. I understood this was on. Of course, I would be the last one to put the President of the United States at risk. I can assure you there would be no risk. (Ø)

The President: I do not normally get into these matters, but I will go back in light of what you have told me. I am surprised that you had heard something else. I will go back and see. (Ø)

Prime Minister Fenech Adami: I would not put you at risk. (Ø)

The President: I do not need any demonstrations. (Ø)

Prime Minister Fenech Adami: I blocked the possibility of demonstrations. (Ø)

The President: Another concern is our Libyan "friends." You have stood up to Libya and ended some of those contacts, but my security people raised that concern. I doesn't worry me -- the President of the United States gets demonstrated against everywhere -- but I had hoped for something more tranquil. (Ø)

Prime Minister Fenech Adami: It will be tranquil. (Ø)

The President: I will talk to General Scowcroft, my national security adviser, but I am very surprised at this. Someone is going to be out of work for misleading you. (Ø)

Prime Minister Fenech Adami: It is essential from a political point of view. I am sorry to have troubled you, but you said to call if there was a problem. (Ø)

The President: No, I appreciate your call. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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