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WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with Toshiki Kaifu, Prime Minister of Japan (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Toshiki Kaifu, Prime Minister of Japan
Interpreter: John Malott, Director, Office of Japanese Affairs, Department of State
Notetaker: Karl D. Jackson, Senior Director for Asian Affairs, NSC

DATE, TIME February 23, 1990, 9:55 - 10:05am EST
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President telephoned Prime Minister Kaifu to offer congratulations on the recent elections in Japan. (S)

The President: Toshiki, is that you? (U)

PM Kaifu: Yes, it is Mr. President. (U)

The President: I was calling to add my voice to the congratulations on your election victory. (S)

PM Kaifu: Thank you very much. (In Japanese) As soon as victory became apparent, I had a message of congratulations from you. (S)

The President: I was also calling to see whether, with your victory behind you, it would fit with your schedule for us to have a personal conversation. Depending on your schedule, I suggest we meet in California on March 4 for golf in Palm Springs followed by meetings on March 5. This is just a suggestion. If that does not work, we will work on another place or another time. (S)

PM Kaifu: I have to speak to the Diet on March 2, and on the 5th I need to accept the Diet's views on my speech. I could be out of Tokyo on the 3rd and 4th but I would need to be back for questions from the opposition on the 5th. It would be possible for me to meet with you on the 3rd and 4th. (S)

The President: I need to check whether the 3rd and 4th would be possible for me. I also have a second suggestion. I would love to have you as my guest at Camp David on March 10-11. Bring your wife and your advisors and we could meet there in a relaxed atmosphere. (S)

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PM Kaifu: After that (March 5), we open the budget debate in the Diet, and I will need to check with my administrative staff regarding when I could get away. (S)

The President: "Let's shoot for the 3rd and 4th. General Scowcroft will be in touch with your Ambassador here or with whomever you designate in Tokyo to make the arrangements." (S)

PM Kaifu: I will ask Ambassador Murata to see General Scowcroft to work out the details. (S)

The President: I want you to know that I have no hidden agenda or special message for you. After your magnificent election victory, I wanted to get together to talk. The U.S.-Japan relationship is vital to both countries and that is what this meeting is all about. The meeting is designed to signal my personal interest in this relationship. I want to meet with someone I consider a friend on a very personal basis. (S)

PM Kaifu: I also want to see you very much. I agree about the importance of the U.S.-Japan relationship. I hope that we can meet on March 3rd and 4th. (S)

The President: In closing, I want to say how very proud we are of your leadership in that election victory. (S)

PM Kaifu: Thank you very much. (U)

The President and the Prime Minister signed off. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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