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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Call to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of the United Kingdom (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister
Robert Hutchings, NSC Staff (Notetaker)

DATE, TIME June 3, 1990, 3:58 - 4:08 p.m.
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: Margaret! (U)

Prime Minister Thatcher: How nice of you to ring. It has been a very interesting few days. It came across marvelously. (U)

The President: I'm glad. That's our feeling, too, and I think the Soviet side was also satisfied. I asked Gorbachev how it would play at home, and he said he was pleased. We had good discussions on matters of direct interest to you. We didn't resolve issues of British defenses, and we didn't try to. I'm going to send you a report, but there was nothing new in his position concerning British defenses and START. But he was quite optimistic that we could conclude a START agreement. On the German Question, I don't know if you have seen a transcript of our press conference. (U)

Prime Minister Thatcher: No, not yet. (U)

The President: Let me read you three sentences from my opening statement, which we had sent over to the Soviet Embassy out of courtesy, to give them an opportunity to modify it or tone it down. They did not object to it. Let me just read it to you. "I (that's George Bush) stressed that the long held aspirations of the German people should be met without delay. On the matter of Germany's external alliances -- I believe -- as does

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Chancellor Kohl and the members of the Alliance -- that the united Germany should be a full member of NATO. President Gorbachev does not hold that view. But we are in full agreement that the matter of alliance membership is -- in accordance with the Helsinki Final Act -- a matter for the Germans to decide." He didn't object when he had a chance at the press conference. In our meeting, I said Germany should be in NATO, but it's their right to decide, in keeping with the Helsinki Final Act. He said fine, but then he got into this stuff about a transition period. So there was little change on Germany. (Ø)

On regional issues, we had a very open discussion on a wide array of topics, including a joint effort to help the people starving in Ethiopia. It's a small thing, compared to all the world events we discussed, but I see it as a good sign. Yesterday, we went to Camp David, sat on the terrace -- you've been there -- and took our ties off. It was just the two of us, with Baker and Scowcroft on our side. He had Akhromeyev and Shevardnadze with him. We talked for hours, with no structure. So the mood and ambience was very positive. He is not overly concerned about his domestic problems. I do have problems on Lithuania, as you do, and I told him where I stand. He knows I will be criticized for signing the trade agreement. I was trying to send Gorbachev the message that we're going to try to help him where we can. (Ø)

Prime Minister Thatcher: But there was no movement on Germany?
(Ø)

The President: No, except on the point that a united Germany could be in NATO, but they have the right to decide. He said okay, but then talked about transitional arrangements. But we will keep at it. Who will see him next -- Kohl, or is it you?
(Ø)

Prime Minister Thatcher: I'm the next. But you have given him a big boost. (Ø)

The President: Oddly, the trip that Barb and Raisa took up to Wellesley -- it sounds like a small thing, but it was very well received here. The Soviet side said the same. (U)

Prime Minister Thatcher: Yes, I thought it was terrific. She gave a marvelous speech. (U)

The President: Yes, she didn't let those little Yuppies get her down. (Ø)

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Prime Minister Thatcher: I think it was terrific. We were very impressed. This couldn't have happened two years ago. (C)

The President: I will send you my report. Call if I can be of any help. We should stay in close touch. At one point he said, what about our being in NATO? I said we can talk about anything. I told him plans to have a broad agenda at NATO, and I read him Article Two to show that the Alliance doesn't have to be seen as threatening to him. We had a long talk. He wants an expanded CSCE. He also talked about his economic problems.. I'll report on that over the cable line. But generally, it was a good meeting. (C)

Prime Minister Thatcher: Good. Many congratulations, George, and thank you very much for phoning. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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