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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Call to Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers
of the Netherlands (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers
Nicholas Burns, NSC Staff

DATE, TIME July 3, 1990, 1:28 p.m.-1:35 p.m.
AND PLACE: Kennebunkport

Prime Minister Lubbers: This is Ruud speaking. (U)

The President: Ruud, how are you? It's nice to hear your voice. I am looking forward to seeing you in person soon. I'm making a few calls today before the Summit. The big thing from our standpoint is that we demonstrate that this Summit comes at a turning point in alliance history and will have an important role in shaping the future of Europe. Our paper was worked out with that in mind. (S)

The Summit will also be crucial for the Soviets. They will have to see something to agree with to go along with Germany in NATO. We tried to make it possible for them to see changes. And for the U.S., we need a reason to remain as a stabilizing influence in Europe. That is the background. Some of our proposals may be seen as bold or controversial. But we thought we needed those kinds of proposals. (S)

Prime Minister Lubbers: I've read the document. We Dutch agree fully with it. If I think of possible objections from other countries, the French will be the most difficult. The multinational unit is excellent to me. But the French will find it hard to go along with one commander. As you know, they have wanted to preserve their autonomy. But I think a solution can be worked out. (S)

The President: I've not talked to Francois Mitterrand. (S)

Prime Minister Lubbers: Me neither. The French have also always objected to what we call forward defense. Now that we have changed that policy, the French will see the change as a plus. (S)

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The President: That's interesting. I hadn't thought of it that way. (P)

Prime Minister Lubbers: The French will select that as positive on strategy. It would be useful if they did not make problems on the other aspects of the document. Besides that, some countries may have difficulty with the speed of the changes. At NATO headquarters, the Ambassadors made a document which was not very good. So, there could be some problems there from those people. (P)

I don't know if you have heard that Manfred Woerner asked Hans van den Broek to preside over a committee to review the last details on the declaration. (P)

The President: That's good, right? (U)

Prime Minister Lubbers: Some of the countries have not had a chance to discuss it with each other for security reasons and because they just got the text. So, Woerner asked van den Broek to preside over a meeting of foreign ministers on the text. van den Broek has just spoken to Jim Baker on his plane so that is good. (P)

The President: That is good and could iron out any difficulties. I just talked to Jim Baker yesterday, and he didn't mention it. (P)

Prime Minister Lubbers: No, Woerner just called van den Broek this morning to ask him to do it. (P)

The President: Okay, Ruud. I look forward to seeing you, my friend. (U)

Prime Minister Lubbers: Right. Good-bye. (U)

The President: Good-bye. (U)

- End of Conversation -

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