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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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2000-0429-F
JL 08/21/09

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Call to Prime Minister Wilfried Martens
of Belgium.

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Prime Minister Wilfried Martens
Nicholas Burns, NSC Staff (notetaker)

DATE, TIME July 3, 1990, 8:44 a.m.-8:51 a.m.
AND PLACE: Kennebunkport

The President: Wilfried, how are you? (U)

Prime Minister Martens: Fine, Mr. President. (U)

The President: I'm up in Maine at my house by the sea. I'll be coming to London tomorrow night and thought I should call to make some observations on the Summit. (P)

I hope you received my letter which presents some ideas on making the Summit a success. We tried to draw on thinking from around the alliance. The Summit comes at a turning point in the history of the alliance. Now is the time for us to show that NATO will play its part in shaping the new Europe. There is a lot of interest in the declaration. The Summit will be important for the Soviets. Gorbachev is trying to decide about the concept of Germany in NATO. It will be important also for the East European leaders who are deciding whether NATO is an exclusive club or something that is good for all Europe. (P)

The Summit will also be critical for our publics. I'm a believer in NATO and think we should stay on the continent. I do worry about the future, though, and want to shape a new NATO to keep us there. Some of the proposals are controversial. I want to show that NATO is ready to adapt. (P)

Prime Minister Martens: I think this is a crucial moment. I favor an important document. Perhaps we could strengthen the role of the community in the document. That would be my sole observation. (P)

The President: I know that some will have problems with this or that point. We can't start peeling away everything or we'll be

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in trouble. We have got to show that the alliance can adapt. We will need strong allied support for a strong declaration. I would appeal to you that we keep adjustments to a minimum. I don't want a watered-down declaration. (S)

I mentioned the Soviets a moment ago. We are watching the party congress on television--it looks like Gorbachev is having a tough time. Shevardnadze told Jim Baker recently four times how important the NATO Summit will be to Moscow. I also had a good chat with Gorbachev on this at Camp David when he was here. So, I hope we can stay together and show a broad definition of NATO. I think that would help the Soviets acquiesce in a unified Germany in NATO. (S)

Prime Minister Martens: I agree on a strong document. I agree Germany should be in NATO. Your document could give confidence to Gorbachev and I hope the result is that Germany will be in NATO. (S)

The President: I also feel confident. There are a lot of bumps in the road but we'll get there. I wanted to touch base with you today personally on this. (S)

When are you going to London? (U)

Prime Minister Martens: I am going to Luxembourg tomorrow and to London tomorrow night. (S)

The President: I look forward to seeing you. I had no special agenda in calling. I just wanted to touch base. It's good we are on the same wavelength. Okay, see you on Thursday. (S)

Prime Minister Martens: See you Thursday or Wednesday night? (S)

The President: Thursday morning. (U)

Prime Minister Martens: Thursday. (U)

The President: Good-bye. (U)

Prime Minister Martens: Good-bye. (U)

- End of Conversation -

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