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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Francois Mitterrand, President of France on August 19, 1991

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Mitterrand
Notetaker: David C. Gompert, NSC Staff

DATE, TIME August 19, 1991 6:50am
AND PLACE: Situation Room

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

President Mitterrand: Thank you. It's good of you to call me. (U)

The President: I wanted to compare notes. There is nothing new. Major said it clearly. (U)

President Mitterrand: I will speak on TV tonight. We need to restate the principles that enabled us to cooperate with Gorbachev. They can't depart from them. (U)

The President: I'll say we have no inside info. We continue to support the process of reform and openness. But let's void statements about rearming. (S)

President Mitterrand: Indeed. Let's not create a perception that all is lost. This coup could fail in a few days or months. It goes against the tide. It's hard to impose by force a regime on a changing nation. It won't work. (S)

It will be difficult, but we don't know for how long. Soviet republics now have elected officials. (S)

We should stick with our principles as our constant. (S)

The President: Agreed. (S)

End of Conversation

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