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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with Prime Minister
Rabin of Israel on July 13, 1992

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Prime Minister Rabin of Israel
Notetaker: Edmund J. Hull

DATE, TIME July 13, 1992; 4:20 - 4:30 p.m. EST
and PLACE: Kennebunkport, Maine

The President: Mr. Prime Minister, how are you? (U)

PM Rabin: Fine, How are you? (U)

The President: Fine. With this being a big day over there, I wanted to call and congratulate you. I would have called before, right after the election, but I didn't think that was a good idea. But now you have formed a government and have been inaugurated. (Ø)

PM Rabin: Thank you. We have still got a problem with the way we form a government. Even the biggest (single) party is not enough. The new system will make it better. (Ø)

The President: I am proud that you have formed a government. I wanted to let you know that I am determined to maintain the U.S.-Israeli relationship. It was maintained even in difficult times. But now I want to open a new chapter. I want to work with your new government. We won't agree on everything, but we will always respect your position. I want to have Jim Baker come over next week to prepare a visit by you here in Washington, if you have official business, or at Kennebunkport soon. Up here in Maine may be better. We can put our feet up and talk frankly and hammer out the problems. (Ø)

PM Rabin: I appreciate the opportunity to have a chance to talk with you immediately after starting my government. I also believe the core strength of the relationship can be in better shape. There are many areas of common interest. When will Jim Baker come? (Ø)

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The President: Next week and he would also visit other places. We will characterize the visit publicly as related to the peace process, but he will talk about any issue. If the meeting is characterized as relating to the peace process, it will not raise a lot of expectations. Jim will start his trip with Israel and make a couple other stops. You could then come here the first or second week of August. (Ø)

PM Rabin: I'll try. First thank you for the invitation. Just to let you know, and so Jim can be prepared, we won't be in a position to go into details next week but Jim Baker can come. (Ø)

The President: If you are comfortable. We don't have to resolve things like loan guarantees. Who should Jim see to work out the details? (Ø)

PM Rabin: Have him check with me, he will talk to me. (Ø)

The President: I will have him call you by the end of the week. There will be some good substance and symbolism to your visit, and we can announce it after Jim's visit. (Ø)

PM Rabin: I agree. (Ø)

The President: Will you mind if I announce when Jim Baker will visit Israel? (Ø)

PM Rabin: There is no problem. You can announce that Jim Baker is coming next week, and there is no problem with me if you announce I will come the beginning of August. It is okay with me. (Ø)

The President: When do you want to make the announcement of your visit? (Ø)

PM Rabin: It must not be before your invitation. (Ø)

The President: Let me suggest that Jim comes a week from tomorrow. During that visit, we can make a public announcement of your visit. (Ø)

PM Rabin: It is difficult for me to do it Tuesday. Once we fix the date there will be no problem. I will come the beginning of August. (Ø)

The President: I will talk to Jim Baker. If you want to say we had this conversation and that Jim Baker is going to Israel that is fine and that I offered you my invitation to visit Maine in early August, you can do it now. It will be a good ice breaker. (Ø)

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PM Rabin: Okay. I thank you for your support. (Ø)

The President: I will get this information to the press guys so they can announce Jim Baker's visit and your visit in August. I want to turn over a new leaf in our relations. It must be very late there, you go get some rest. Don't let them kill you.

(Ø)

Goodbyes.

-- End of Conversation --

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Originally Processed With FOIA(s):
2009-0275-S

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OA/ID Number:	91113
Folder ID Number:	91113-005

Folder Title:
Presidential Telephone Calls - Memorandum of Conversations 7/10/92 - 11/5/92
