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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Prime Minister Mulroney of Canada

PARTICIPANTS: The President
John Mulroney, Prime Minister of Canada
Interpreter: none
Notetaker: Barry Lowenkron

DATE, TIME July 31, 1992, 1:20 pm - 1:26 pm
AND PLACE: Air Force One

The President: Comment allez-vous? (U)

Prime Minister Mulroney: Tres bien, et vous? (U)

The President: Fine, how the hell are you? (U)

Prime Minister Mulroney: Fine, George. You're up in the air.
(U)

The President: Yes. I feel up in the air, and I'm up in the air on the plane. I feel a ray of optimism. We're taking the offensive, and we're doing a little better. (Ø)

Prime Minister Mulroney: I think you should. Say, I'm calling because I'd like to pass on some suggestions to you, and I don't know if I should get in touch with Barbara or with Jim Baker.
(Ø)

The President: Can I call you tomorrow? (U)

Prime Minister Mulroney: Sure. What's a good time? (U)

The President: I'll be in Camp David beginning tonight, but I'd love to chat with you. I'll be working this weekend at Camp David on my speech. (Ø)

Prime Minister Mulroney: I've been down myself most of my political life, so I'd like to offer you some thoughts. (Ø)

The President: Great. Will you be in Ottawa? (U)

Prime Minister Mulroney: I'll be in my cottage north of Ottawa, but I can get reached through the switchboard in Ottawa. (U)

The President: Is 12:00 fine? (U)

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Prime Minister Mulroney: Fine. I want you to know, seven months before Margaret Thatcher's first re-election, 67% of those polled in Britain said she would be remembered as the worst Prime Minister in English history. Can you imagine that?! Six months later she went on to win her second term, and four years later her third term. (Ø)

The President: Well, I heard from Bill Farrish who said he called Las Vegas and said he wanted to lay down some money on the election, and Las Vegas said the odds were 9:5 Bush -- that's different than what you get in Gallup and other polls. (Ø)

Prime Minister Mulroney: Will's right. The problem is that there are more democrats and more liberals than there are republicans and conservatives. But, we've all been in these kind of fixes, and like Margaret Thatcher, we'll all pull out of them. (Ø)

The President: I'll call you at noon. Give Jim Baker a call as well. He'll be in Wyoming and I know he'd love to hear from you. But, how are things with you? (Ø)

Prime Minister Mulroney: We're optimistic. We're going to come back slowly but surely, for similar reasons. All the elements are there for you for not only a victory, but a very strong victory. If there's any doubt, just read George Will. (Ø)

The President: Wasn't that ugly? Look, how's the unification issue, speaking of being more optimistic? (Ø)

Prime Minister Mulroney: Well, its difficult George. We've got lots of challenges in a linguistically divided Federation. But, we'll see it through. (Ø)

The President: All right my friend. I'll call you tomorrow.
(U)

-- End of Conversation --

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