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THE WHITE HOUSE
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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers of
the Netherlands on December 21, 1992

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers
Interpreter: None
Notetaker: E. Anthony Wayne

DATE, TIME December 21, 1992, 4:31 - 4:37 p.m.
AND PLACE: Oval Office

The President: Hello, Ruud. (U)

Prime Minister Lubbers: Hello, George. (U)

The President: Merry Christmas. It's good to hear your voice.
(U)

Prime Minister Lubbers: I have no special reason to call except
to send my best greetings to you and Barbara now that we are in
the holiday season and a bit passed your elections. The Queen
also sends her best. She was here for dinner tonight. (U)

The President: Well, thank you very much and please give my
thanks to the Queen. I appreciated her letter very much, and it
is very kind of you to call. (U)

Prime Minister Lubbers: I just wanted to say hello. Things are
going well here. As you may know, Hans van den Broek is going to
the European Commission. He will be handling foreign policy
there. I will be a bit lonely here as we have been together for
ten years. I will now be alone here until 1994 when I leave
office. (U)

The President: Well, everyone here has the highest respect for
Hans van den Broek. He has done a wonderful job, and he is a
friend of the Atlantic relationship. (U)

Prime Minister Lubbers: Yes, he will be very good for EC foreign
policy and for relations between Europe and the United States.
(U)

The President: Is he taking Andriessen's place? (U)

Prime Minister Lubbers: It looks like Hans will do foreign
policy only and the trade portfolio will go to Leon Brittain.
But the final decision will be taken tomorrow. Jacques Delors

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and I agreed that Hans will do all of the political aspects of foreign policy. (C)

The President: Well, that is just great. I want to express our thanks to Franz Andriessen. I know he faced a lot of pressure in negotiating a trade agreement with us, and he did a good job. I also want to say that it was great working with you and I will miss that. (U)

Prime Minister Lubbers: Yes, I have great memories working with you too. (U)

The President: Thank you so much for the call. I really appreciate it. Merry Christmas. Now, if you get to Texas, I look forward to seeing you. (U)

Prime Minister Lubbers: Yes, and if you come to the Netherlands, I hope to see you. All the best. I guess you are still hoping for progress on GATT? (U)

The President: Yes, there is a bit more we would like to do on GATT. I may also be going to Somalia over the holidays. And, we are trying to get a SALT II treaty done before I leave office.
(C)

Prime Minister Lubbers: All the best for the next few weeks. I hope they are productive. (U)

The President: Yes, we'll try. Thanks for the phone call. (U)

Prime Minister Lubbers: All the best. Good-bye. (U)

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