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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Chancellor Helmut Kohl of
Germany (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Chancellor Kohl

Interpreter: Harry Obst
Notetakers: Nancy McEldowney, Peter
Huggins, Cindy Lawrence, Tony Campanella,
Joel Schrader and Robert Ford

DATE, TIME February 4, 1998, 11:42 - 11:49 a.m. EST
AND PLACE: Residence

The President: Hello? (U)

Chancellor Kohl: Bill? (U)

The President: Yes, Helmut. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: I am very pleased to note that, from the perspective over here, it looks like the mood in the United States is changing. I must say, I was very gratified to see how successful you were in delivering the State of Union address. I now have renewed confidence in the common sense of the American people. (✓)

The President: Thank you. I have a lot of confidence in their common sense too. If we can hold off the stampede and get fair treatment, we will be just fine. (✓)

Chancellor Kohl: Well, you just have to keep steady on your course and remain steadfast. You know you can rely on your friends (✓)

The President: Thank you for the very positive statement. I wanted to call you to say how very sorry I am about the horrible accident in Italy yesterday where eight Germans were killed when

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one of our aircraft hit the cable of a ski lift. It's a terrible thing and I feel awful about it. I wanted to express my condolences to you and to the families. We are working with the Italian government. I will ensure that your government is kept informed of our investigation and that we take all necessary steps to ensure that it won't happen again. (X)

Chancellor Kohl: Thank you very much. (U)

The President: Also, I am delighted to see that we have gotten it worked out for me to come to Germany to see you on May 13-14 on my way to Birmingham. (X)

Chancellor Kohl: I'm very pleased also, and assure you that we will see to it that a wonderful program is arranged. (X)

The President: I understand there is some chance we can commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift. (X)

Chancellor Kohl: Well, the thing is that it is actually on a different date. (X)

The President: The main thing I want to do on this trip is whatever helps you the most. Whatever helps you is what I want to do there. So let me know what I can do to best help you. (X)

Chancellor Kohl: Thank you very much Bill. That is most kind of you. I will notify you well in advance, in a timely fashion, and let you know what we have arranged. So let me see, that will mean you probably will arrive on Wednesday the 13th and then fly to Birmingham on the 14th on Thursday night or perhaps Friday morning. Whatever is convenient. (X)

The President: As I said, I want you to put together what you think will be the best possible thing for you. (X)

Chancellor Kohl: Thank you very much. (U)

The President: I also understand you are going to host the G-7/G-8 in Cologne in 1999 and that would be great. I love Cologne. (X)

Chancellor Kohl: That is very, very good, and I do trust we will have a big bash for everyone. (U)

The President: It is a wonderful city. I was a young man when I first saw it and I would love to see it again. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: Very good. (U)

The President: Thank you, Helmut. Thank you for your support. I will keep plugging away here. It will be fine. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: Okay, very good. All the best to you and please give warmest regards to Hillary from my wife. (U)

The President: I'll do it. Goodbye. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: Goodbye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --