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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Chancellor Kohl of Germany (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Chancellor Kohl

Interpreter: Erica Konuk
Notetakers: Doug Mueller, Trey Whitworth,
Pat O'Shaughnessy, James Smith, John Schmidt,
Alexander Vershbow

DATE, TIME: July 3, 1997, 1204-1214 EDT
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: Hello? (U)

Chancellor Kohl: Yes? (U)

The President: Helmut? (U)

Chancellor Kohl: How are you doing, Bill? (U)

The President: I'm fine. It's good to hear your voice; how are you? (U)

Chancellor Kohl: I still have the flu. Must be the summer flu. I must have brought it back from the States; I know you have done it on purpose to force me to give in on the CO2 emissions. (U)

The President: No, I didn't. You could say you got it from dirty air in America, then I'd have to be even tougher. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: I think it's because of the air conditioning. Over here, we simply don't have it. I've always had the after-effect. I look forward to meeting you Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and I do hope we'll come to agreement as soon as possible. As far as I can see, and correct me if I'm wrong, what you're going to announce is what you told me in New York. You're going to accept three and no more, right? I think we can pursue it that way, but we simply need to give a message opening up a perspective for Romania and Slovenia. (U)

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The President: I agree with that. We need to send the right signal. I think we ought to say that these three are the most ready, but that we have an interest in building NATO's southern flank, and that we'll review it in 1999. Then we can send a clear signal to the individual countries that if they can keep their democracies going and stay on the path of reform, they will be excellent candidates. (Ø)

Chancellor Kohl: I think we can do that in that way, but I think we should have some kind of formula which Romania and Slovenia can be comfortable with and which will address the concerns of their people. I think we can come up with some kind of language. (Ø)

The President: I agree with that. I think there's a way to do it, to keep the door open to Bulgaria and Austria, that doesn't create another problem for us with the Baltic states. (Ø)

Chancellor Kohl: But the Baltic states, we simply won't be able to include them. (Ø)

The President: But we don't need to drive them to distraction with insecurity now for no good reason. We need to find a way to keep them happy in the Partnership for Peace. (Ø)

Chancellor Kohl: Yes, I do think we can find a solution there. (Ø)

The President: Yes, and the other thing I think is important is that the language be very forward-leaning, but that there be no formal commitment until 1999. We don't want to appear to be making one decision when we're making another. We need to preserve the integrity of this decision. Surely, we can find a way to do it; our people will just have to work on it. (Ø)

Chancellor Kohl: Well, I'm quite confident that we'll be able to come up with common language. Tell your people, perhaps Sandy Berger, to call Joachim Bitterlich and work on some language. (Ø)

The President: I'll do that. We'll keep working on it. See you in a few days in Madrid. Thanks, Helmut. Bye. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: Please give your wife my regards. (U)

The President: Just let me say one thing: when we get there, we need to find a way for Jacques to take credit for this language, so it's not a loss for him. Perhaps if you could call him, and find a way for this to be his contribution, if that helps. (Ø)

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Chancellor Kohl: I'll try, Bill. (U)

The President: If we can agree first, perhaps you can call Chirac and find a way for him to buy off on it. I don't want this to be a big defeat for him. (Ø)

Chancellor Kohl: Obviously. Bill, I see your point. I'll do my best, but obviously, I can't promise anything. (Ø)

The President: Thank you, bye. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: Bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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