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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany
on November 29, 1993

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Helmut Kohl, Chancellor of Germany
Interpreter: Gisela Marcuse
Chancellor Kohl's interpreter
Notetaker: Neil G. Bleicken

DATE, TIME November 29, 1993; 10:27-10:50 EST
AND PLACE: Oval Office

Chancellor Kohl: Hello. (U)

The President: Hello. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: Hello Bill, how are you? (U)

The President: I'm fine. It's nice to hear your voice. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: Thank you. I'm very pleased to hear your voice. We have a normal day of work here. We have the budget debate here. I called because I received and accepted an invitation to attend the Conference of American Governors. I'm planning to leave Sunday, January 30 and arrive Sunday night and on the thirty-first I have been invited to speak to the Governor's Conference. This is my timetable and I thought that maybe we can build a meeting between the two of us. (C)

The President: Yes, I think so. I should be back from my trip to Europe and the Soviet Union, I mean Russia, by then. How many days will you be here. (C)

Chancellor Kohl: Well, actually I'm there only for the evening and the whole day. Actually, we could be there Sunday... (C)

The President: So we need to get together on the thirtieth or the thirty-first? (C)

Chancellor Kohl: Yes. (U)

The President: I'll tell you what, I'll look at our schedule and have our people call you in the next day or so to set up a meeting. I think that will be a good thing to do. (C)

Chancellor Kohl: I assume that you will be there because from what the person said who is organizing the conference you will be speaking to them. (C)

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The President: Yes, that's right. Normally, I also have them to dinner at the White House. (C)

Chancellor Kohl: My second point, I wanted to repeat the invitation already extended to your wife. If she wanted to gain a first hand impression of our health insurance scheme we would put together a very interesting program. (C)

The President: Thank you very much. I may want to arrange for her to come with a few members of Congress who have ideas on what we should do. (C)

Chancellor Kohl: We would be very glad to have them. Obviously, this invitation is extended to them also. I would like to be of help and I just need to be told how. (C)

The President: Yes, very good. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: In Washington we can also talk about your visit to Germany this summer. The idea mentioned is that you should come to Germany after the G-7 meeting in Naples. (C)

The President: Yes, we had discussed that. (C)

Chancellor Kohl: Another point, I would like to hear your views on prospects of the NATO summit and the conclusion of the GATT round. (C)

The President: In regard to NATO, we seem to be thinking along similar lines regarding the main focus of the January 10-11 summit. The meeting of defense ministers went well and I am also encouraged by the positive reaction to our Partnership for Peace initiative from the NATO allies, the countries in Eastern Europe, and by President Yeltsin. (C)

Chancellor Kohl: That sounds good. I talked to Boris Yeltsin during a stop-over after returning from China about eight days ago. All the members of my party thought it went very well -- before the NATO summit and he had reasonable solutions. (C)

The President: Good. With regard to GATT, I got your letter that you mailed on twenty-six November. I'm feeling more positive than you about the meeting between Mickey Kantor and Sir Leon Brittan. I'm hoping we can work out the issue on the agriculture. I think we can. We are also interested in one or two other issues and we will be having a meeting on them in the next few days. After meeting with Asian leaders I am optimistic about working out a deal by the fifteen December deadline. As far as Japan is concerned, if the U.S. and Europe can make a deal, Japan won't stand in the way but they won't take the initiative. If we can work out our differences Japan will go along. I'm hopeful we can. We are going to get an EC initiative on market access in the next few days and I think we can work out a deal. I may need to talk to you on the phone again once or twice about this. I think we should both focus on this in the days ahead. (C)

Chancellor Kohl: Very well Bill. It's a done deal. We will do as you suggested. Basically, I'll be here in the office over the next few weeks. I may be out of Bonn for a few days but will be here in the country and you can reach me. It is of the utmost importance that an agreement is concluded. I completely agree that we have to put forward our maximum effort as you suggested. I hope you are doing well. (C)

The President: I'm doing very well. We've had a good two weeks here. (C)

Chancellor Kohl: You must not be angry when people criticize you. You must remember my example when people have been criticizing me and criticizing me and criticizing me and you can't let it make you angry. (C)

The President: That's good. May I ask you a question about China. From the press reports you had a good trip. I'm glad President Jiang came to the United States. I had a meeting with him. You know the U.S. is buying about a third of China's exports but I have a human rights problem here with Congress. Unless China makes some progress on human rights we may not be able to maintain Most Favored Nations status. I'd like your advice. I want to be able to head off a problem with this next year. (C)

Chancellor Kohl: Well first, I believe they are moving forward. The leadership seems to be in a difficult period of transition. It is not clear what figure will appear after Dien Xiao Ping. They have embarked down an experimental road and I think it is pure illusion to believe one can pursue liberal market economy on the one hand and keep the same old hard political regime on the other. I believe it would be a very great mistake if we did not help them along the road to decent human rights relations and international acceptance. On human rights I was very frank. I said if the people of China wanted to become full fledged members of the international community then they had to adhere to this issue. We have to impress them on this. I have submitted a list to them and as you know they have released several prisoners over the last few days and among them are two Catholic priests who have been held captive for several years. We have similar discussions here in Germany as in the U.S. on human rights and it is an issue I think is important. On the other hand, if we isolate them and don't talk to them, that would be bad. (C)

The President: I agree with that but I'm in a bit of a difficult situation here because of our laws. We have suggested a few very limited things the Chinese could do so we can avoid a debate on the trade issue here next year. (C)

Chancellor Kohl: Bill, I would like to tell you I talked to Li Peng and the Prime Minister of China on relations with the United States. I was very frank and open. I said we consider the United States to be our friends and I said the President of the United States was a personal friend of mine and I told him

expressly, we as Germans could not have good and fruitful long term relations with China if they did not improve relations with the United States. He said that it would be in China's interest to improve relations with the United States and with you as President it would be possible. (S)

The President: Well, I'll work on it. I may need your help. (S)

Chancellor Kohl: If anything can be done it will be done in a discrete way. We will do what we can. (S)

The President: In the meanwhile, we'll work hard for the next two weeks on GATT. I will see you here in Washington in January. Helmut, the restaurant you like so much here in D.C., is it Filomena's? (S)

Chancellor Kohl: Yes, and if you want we can spend Sunday night there. (S)

The President: I ate there a few days ago. They said my appetite was almost as good as yours. (S)

Chancellor Kohl: You take care then Bill and we'll call back then in the next few days on GATT. (S)

The President: We'll follow up on that. (S)

Chancellor Kohl: Goodbye. (U)

The President: Goodbye, auf wiedersehen. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: Goodbye, auf wiedersehen. (U)