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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Lech Walesa, President of Poland

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Lech Walesa
Interpreter: Val Chlebowski
Notetaker: David Bailey, Neil Bleicken

DATE, TIME: March 3, 1993, 11:55am-12:06pm
AND PLACE: Oval Office

President Walesa: The President of Poland says hello to the President of the United States of America. I'm so glad we can talk after such a short time. This bodes well for the future context. I hope that it will not be long before we meet in person. I know you are interested in the problems in Eastern Europe and spend a lot of time on it. There are great changes and Poland started them, but Poland needs support. They get very complicated. I would be very happy if we could talk these things over. I know that on April 4 you are going to meet President Yeltsin. This is a great event for Russia, Eastern Europe, and the world. The meeting will be greatly appreciated in Europe and in Poland, where it all started. It would underline all that happened. There is no more Warsaw Pact and COMECON. Poland is the symbol of a new beginning in which the United States played a part. It is good to schedule a meeting and we count on it very much. (C)

The President: Thank you. I hope you are feeling better. You sound terrific. I hope you feel as good as you sound. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on the government's recent parliamentary victory on its budget. I may need you and your Prime Minister to come here and help me pass my budget through Congress. I understand that you will soon reach agreement with the IMF and that the agreement will be reviewed this month. I'm impressed by the standard Poland has set. Poland has set the standard in dealing with the IMF that the world will have to meet. The U.S. supports you on this. (C)

I, too, am eager to meet with you. One opportunity may be on April 22 for the dedication of the Holocaust memorial. I also know that April 19 is the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. We are currently reviewing individuals for participation in our delegation. We will be sending a very distinguished delegation. This is a very important occasion, not only for Poland, but the whole world. I don't know if you can leave your country but we could meet in Washington on or around April 22. Is that a possibility? (C)

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President Walesa: Yes, this is a possibility. It will give me great pleasure to help you pass your budget through Congress. We would still like to play host to you and President Yeltsin. There are reform problems in post-communist countries which are complicated. Germany is closing its borders and sending asylum seekers back. Russia and Ukraine are complicated and need American help. The Yugoslavia example can be repeated anywhere. I would be happy if we could speak in April. Reform in Poland is well but that is not so in other countries and we should see what can be done. We'll participate in the Ghetto celebrations both here and perhaps there. (C)

The President: Let me say that I am very anxious to be supportive of you. We want no more "Yugoslavia's." I appreciate your offer to host my meeting with Russian President Yeltsin. We are currently discussing various possible venues with the Russian government, but we have not yet come to a final decision. But we will be able to visit in late April on or around the twenty-second. I am looking forward to that. I am committed to your success. I welcome the meeting, and please call me any time on the telephone when you want to have a conversation, when you want to talk. (C)

President Walesa: I thank you very much. I hope we will stay in touch. I believe our reforms will lend a special touch to your meeting with President Yeltsin. (C)

The President: That's a good point. I will bring that to the attention of those who will be arranging the meeting. (C)

President Walesa: Thank you very much and I wish all the best to the United States of America. (U)

The President: Thank you. Goodbye. (U)

- End of Conversation -

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