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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with French President Chirac (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Jacques Chirac

Interpreter: Bill Weber
Notetakers: Cynthia Lawrence, Katherine
O'Loughlin, Pat O'Shaughnessy,
Trey Whitworth and Mary Ann
Peters

DATE, TIME February 5, 1997, 12:12-12:16 p.m. EST
AND PLACE: Air Force One

President Chirac: Hello. (U)

The President: Hello, Jacques. (U)

President Chirac: Bill, I am so sorry. You know we loved Pamela and we are so, so sorry. (U)

The President: I know. Winston called this morning right after she died to tell me what you're going to do. I just called to say thank you, we are so grateful. (U)

President Chirac: You know, Mr. President, Pamela was dearly loved in France. She was one of the great U.S. ambassadors and projected the perfect image of the U.S. in France. She was a friend of France. Needless to say, we will do everything necessary from our end. I have just spoken with her son. We'll do everything to pay appropriate homage to your ambassador. She will be receiving the highest decoration of the French Republic from me. It will be the first time it is awarded to any ambassador. Of course, Bernadette and I will be at the U.S. Embassy for the lying-in-state. (C)

The President: Thank you so much. I know you are sending her home Saturday. Sandy Berger will fly back with her. I just called to tell you how much she cared for you and loved France.

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This was a great joy for her. I can't tell you how grateful I am that you are going to give her the Legion of Honor. (C)

President Chirac: I know all of that. I will meet Sandy Berger obviously and will take advantage of this opportunity to have a brief discussion with him at the embassy. (C)

The President: Thank you very much, Jacques. (U)

President Chirac: Thank you for calling. I appreciate it very much. And my personal condolences, if I may, because I know Pamela was a personal friend of you and your family. (C)

The President: Yes, Hillary and I loved her very much. Hillary asked me to send her best and hopes to see you soon. (C)

President Chirac: Thank you, again. Best wishes to Hillary. Hope to see you both soon. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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