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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with President Chirac of France (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Chirac

Interpreter: Stephanie van Reigersberg
Notetakers: James Smith, Marc Koehler,
Anthony Campanella, Mary Ann Peters

DATE, TIME June 2, 1997, 2:38-2:41 p.m. EDT
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: Jacques? (U)

President Chirac: Hi Bill, how are you? (U)

The President: Okay. Just called to commiserate with you.
Sorry the election didn't go better. (C)

President Chirac: Well, it doesn't change a thing on foreign
policy; for the rest, we will see. Thank you very much, I'm very
touched by your call. Thank you very, very much Bill. (C)

The President: I think it makes it more likely you will be
reelected when you come up again. That is my experience. (C)

President Chirac: Probably. That is what French history says.
On foreign policy, it won't change anything at all. In our
constitution, defense and international policy are totally the
responsibility of the president. Therefore, it will not change
much. You are not going to have a change on foreign or defense
policy. (C)

The President: Well, that's good, and I'm looking forward to
seeing you in Denver. (C)

President Chirac: If we could do in Denver what we did in Lyons
-- a 30-minute meeting, just the two of us, I could tell you a
few things about the Denver agenda. (C)

The President: Absolutely. (C)

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President Chirac: Just 30 or 45 minutes would be enough. I know your schedule will be tight. (C)

The President: I want to see you in Denver; let's set up a bilateral so we can visit. (C)

President Chirac: Okay. (C)

The President: Let's do it. We'll do 45 minutes and have a good meeting. (C)

President Chirac: Okay, okay Bill. Very nice of you to call. I am very moved that you called. (U)

The President: I've been there, right where you are. It may be a blessing in disguise. Sooner or later, France will have to take the direction you've advocated; this might change their way of thinking. (C)

President Chirac: Honestly, I guess so. To be here three years before the turn of the new century and to have a member of the communist party in the government is madness, just madness. (C)

The President: Well, either they won't implement the policies they advocate or you'll be vindicated very quickly. Well, keep your chin up, and I'll see you in Denver. (C)

President Chirac: Thanks. Pass my warmest regards to your wife and to you also, because I appreciate very much your phone call. (U)

The President: Thank you, friend. See you soon. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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