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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Toshiki Kaifu, Prime Minister of Japan, September 13, 1990 (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
Toshiki Kaifu, Prime Minister  
Interpreter: Frances Seeds  
Notetaker: Douglas Paal, NSC

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: September 13, 8:20 - 8:35 pm EDT  
The Residence

The Prime Minister telephoned the President to report on a decision of the Japanese government to increase its contribution to the multinational Persian Gulf effort. (U)

The President: Toshiki, how are you, sir? (U)

PM Kaifu: This is Toshiki speaking. (U)

The President: I am so glad to hear your voice. (U)

PM Kaifu: Me, too, I am very glad to hear your fine voice. You sound as if you enjoy good health. (U)

The President: I am sitting here at dinner at the table. Barbara and I are having dinner. (U)

PM Kaifu: I am sorry to interrupt you in the middle of dinner. Because what I have to tell you is important, I hope you will excuse me if I continue to interrupt your dinner. (U)

The President: I have been expecting your call. I know it is important. (U)

PM Kaifu: First, I am very pleased that the summit meeting in Helsinki was very successful. I received your letter, George, and I am very pleased it went so well. I very much appreciate that we were able to give such a strong signal to Saddam Hussein and all are able to stand together. I also heard your address to Congress. I was very impressed with your strong determination. (U)

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The President: Thank you very much. (U)

PM Kaifu: I also want to thank you very much for sending Secretary Brady to brief me on the situation. I have come to understand fully your thinking on the multinational force and the frontline states. I met with the ministers of MITI, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Finance, and we decided the following. With respect to the frontline states, Egypt, Jordan and Turkey, we will provide assistance of \$2 billion. We will divide it into \$600 million for the short term and \$1.4 billion for the mid-term, as Secretary Brady suggested. (Ø)

With respect to our assistance to the multinational force, in addition to the \$1 billion already decided under a different situation, we have agreed to an additional \$1 billion. With respect to timing, we would like to give it extra thought due to budget constraints. (Ø)

The President: I understand that. (Ø)

PM Kaifu: With respect to the contribution measures just mentioned to you, George, I will tell the Cabinet members soon. We will then make these measures concrete in a prompt manner. We want to keep solidarity with the U.S. and with the international community to show resistance to aggression. (Ø)

The President: Toshiki, one, I am very pleased with this. This is along the lines of what Secretary Brady discussed with you and with Hashimoto (Minister of Finance). And there is already feeling in the U.S., in Congress, that somebody else should do more. But I will be glad to announce, when you think it is correct, that Japan is doing its part. If it is okay to comment, I am willing to comment to the press tomorrow. If there is a need to wait until after the Cabinet meets, I can wait. What is your desire? (Ø)

PM Kaifu: The Cabinet is meeting one half hour from now. The Cabinet Secretary will announce the decision in one and one half hours. (Ø)

The President: Tomorrow I will find an occasion to tell the press that I am grateful for this support. (Ø)

PM Kaifu: Please do. (Ø)

The President: Let's stay in touch. I am so pleased we are staying together, very, very pleased with this phone call. (Ø)

PM Kaifu: I would like to stay in close touch so as to make in concrete terms, in a prompt speeded-up fashion (sic). (Ø)

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The President: Toshiki, let me tell you this. In Congress there are always people trying to blame Japan, Germany or somebody else. They see us spending large amounts of money and sending fine young people to the Middle East, where they might be in harm's way. So I can understand why Congress wants others to do more. But I don't want any scapegoats. And you and I work closely together. And I will make clear to the American people that Japan is trying very hard to do its part. (Ø)

I don't know what lies ahead. It is very complicated. There may be fighting, though I hope we can resolve the crisis peacefully. I want to stay in close touch with you as we go ahead. So thank you for this phone call, my friend. I am very glad we have a relationship where we can talk very frankly like this. (Ø)

PM Kaifu: George, I hope you will continue to exercise leadership and we will be able to resolve the issue peacefully. We will stay in close touch and cooperate. I look forward to seeing you in New York, after which I will visit the five countries in the Middle East that I originally planned to visit. (Ø)

The President: Thank you for this phone call. (U)

PM Kaifu: Thank you. (U)

The President: We send our best wishes to your family. (U)

PM Kaifu: Please say to Barbara that I am sorry to interrupt your dinner. (U)

The President: That's alright. She is sitting right here and is glad we are having this phone call. Thank you, my friend. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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