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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Call from Chancellor Helmut Kohl of  
the Federal Republic of Germany (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
Helmut Kohl, Chancellor  
Robert Hutchings, NSC Staff (Notetaker)  
Gisela Marcuse (Interpreter)

DATE, TIME May 30, 1990, 7:34 - 7:43 a.m.  
AND PLACE: The Oval Office (C)

The President: Helmut! (U)

Chancellor Kohl: Good morning! How are you? (U)

The President: I am getting ready for the big visit. I am glad  
to hear your voice. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: That is why I am calling. I wanted to exchange  
views for a couple of minutes. One thing, George: you can rely  
on our fullest support. I acknowledge very much what you have  
done for us and appreciate your friendship and reliability. One  
thing that is very important for Gorbachev to understand is that  
irrespective of developments, we will stand side by side. And  
one sign of this cooperation are the links between us by the  
future membership of a united Germany in NATO without any  
limitations. You should make this clear to him, but in a  
friendly way, and also make it clear that is the view I hold.  
There should be no doubt about that. A second point: we can  
find a sensible economic arrangement with him. He needs help  
very much. He should also know that we have no intention of  
profiting from his weakness. A final point: it is of immense  
importance that we make further progress in disarmament. (C)

The President: I appreciate your comments very much. On the  
German Question, as it is called, I don't expect much  
breakthrough. I won't change my views, but I will assure him we  
are side by side. We will lay out our views on the Two Plus  
Four, including the need to terminate Four Power rights at the  
time of unification, with no new constraints on German  
sovereignty. We want him to come out feeling he has had a good  
Summit, even though there are no major breakthroughs. I think we  
can do it. We have a wide range of agreements to sign. On the  
economic side, I remember your private conversation with me.  
Subsequently, that has been raised, with Jim Baker. We have  
problems with that, related to Lithuania. But I will take your  
advice. I don't want him to think we are taking advantage of him

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because of his weakness. We will move the arms control agenda forward, but he must realize that on conventional forces, those are Alliance decisions. We can talk about this in general terms, but on matters like the levels of German forces, beyond those already on the table, we cannot make commitments. We really appreciated your offer to help on levels of the Bundeswehr, but we feel it is a little premature. Brent Scowcroft has gotten to Horst Teltschik on that. But it was a very generous offer on your part. (C)

Chancellor Kohl: George, to make this very clear: the wind blew some rumors my way, and I instructed Teltschik to approach Brent Scowcroft. I said we can discuss everything, but we have to agree beforehand before we reach agreement. Nothing is going to change on that. You can rely on it. (C)

The President: Good. I think we are up to date. I look forward to seeing you next week. (U)

Chancellor Kohl: I am very much looking forward to it. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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