



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Call with President Francois Mitterrand of France

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Francois Mitterrand
Adrian Basora, NSC Staff (Notetaker)
Eliza Burnham (Interpreter)

DATE, TIME: February 16, 1990, 10:18 - 10:27 a.m.
PLACE: Kennebunkport, Maine

The President: Hello, Francois? (U)

President Mitterrand: Good morning, I am on the line. Is the President there? (U)

The President: Yes, good morning. What's the latest? (§)

President Mitterrand: [REDACTED]

b1

The President: I totally agree with that, and I thought your statement yesterday was wonderful. (§)

President Mitterrand: [REDACTED]

b1

The President: I can't explain it unless it was instigated by the Soviets, but I don't think so. Jim Baker talked to Bessmertnyhk yesterday and he doesn't believe that the Soviets are behind it. Perhaps it is because Saddam Hussein is hurting militarily. (§)

President Mitterrand: [REDACTED]

b1

The President: You may be right. I think you are on to something there. (§)

President Mitterrand: [REDACTED] b1

The President: I agree, but we also think that Gorbachev is in a lot of trouble at home. This worries me. He has made it clear to me that he wants a place in the negotiations or final arrangements after the war. This is fine. Bessmertnyhk was very reassuring to Baker as well as to the Kuwaitis. So I think that Gorbachev is with us and I don't think they will split off from the coalition. (§)

President Mitterrand: [REDACTED] b1

The President: I agree. I am trying to hold back anti-Soviet legislation and statements here in Washington. We should not give his enemies ammunition. I don't want to get too far out in front on the Baltics. We should cool it and not overreact. (§)

President Mitterrand: [REDACTED] b1

The President: I agree, Francois. One more thing: the dates that Admiral Lanxade talked to Brent Scowcroft about are the same as ours. Lanxade's dates are right on. I'll be back in touch next week if there is any fine tuning on the dates. (§)

President Mitterrand: Yes. (U)

The President: It is nice talking to you. Let's stay in touch. I really appreciate your call. (§)

President Mitterrand: I understand you are at Kennebunkport? (§)

The President: Yes, and it is 11 degrees. Its colder than hell outside, but cozy inside. (U)

President Mitterrand: I remember your house fondly. It is cozy indeed. (§)

The President: Thank you very much for the call. As to the coziness up here, we'll have to do it again soon. (§)

President Mitterrand:

[REDACTED] We'll be in touch soon.

b1

(S)

The President: Goodbye, Francois. (U)

-- End of Conversation --