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10. Telcon	Memorandum of telephone conversation between President George Bush and Prime Minister John Major of the UK [SENT FOR AGENCY REFERRAL] (3 pp.)	9/27/91	(b)(1)	S

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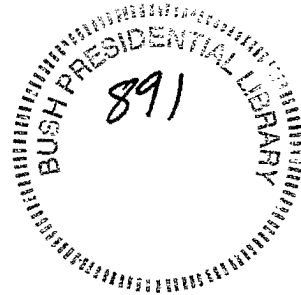
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- (b)(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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- (b)(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
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- (b)(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Prime Minister John Major of the UK

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Prime Minister John Major
Notetaker: Barry F. Lowenkron

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: September 27, 1991, 7:45 - 7:57 am EDT
Situation Room

The President: I'm calling to see whether you received my letter on the speech that I'll be giving. (S)

Prime Minister Major: I got it 40 minutes ago. It is very bold and decisive. I have a wet towel over my head to absorb the ramifications. It's a very momentous statement. (S)

The President: There are several points that I would like to make. I could not and would not lock British forces into the old argument that they have to be included in our proposals. We will support the difference in these forces. We suggest that you have to do something. (S)

Prime Minister Major: I'm grateful. There are two "knot throughs" that I want to raise with you. (b)(1)

(b)(1) but I must say that your proposal is a good thing. It will be well received in the Alliance, and it will get a warm reception around the world. (S)

The President: We want to capitalize on the changes in the Soviet Union. Some of these ideas are dependent on the Soviets responding to our challenge, but we will be sensitive to your two problems. (b)(1)

(b)(1) On the second problem you raised, we will of course consult. (S)

Prime Minister Major: I appreciate that. One or two additional things I would like to raise. (b)(1)

(S)

The President: I'm inclined to give the speech tonight from the Oval office. It is a prime time slot. I think it will be well received in the United States because it will show that we are not locked into old ideas. We will have a new text in about one hour and then we could get it over to you. But I would ask you to please protect the contents. The Washington Post already has revealed some of my proposals but not all. I would prefer that the speech be closely held. (S)

Prime Minister Major: Indeed it will. I will talk to Steven Wall, and let me assure you that a maximum of only 5 of us will know of the speech. It would also be most helpful if you could say in your statement that we consulted. (S)

The President: Absolutely, I will do anything required to help you. It would be a shame if the Labor Party capitalizes on my initiative. | (b)(1) (S)

Prime Minister Major: | (b)(1)

The President: Do you anticipate getting any problems from predictable sources on the right? (S)

Prime Minister Major: | (b)(1)

The President: We can consult on that and see if my draft text does not touch sufficiently on that. | (b)(1) (S)

Prime Minister Major: | (b)(1)

The President: Such a system would be used against Third World countries. It's a limited form of SDI, but if you have concerns | (b)(1) (S)

Prime Minister Major: We will be very happy to do that. (U)

The President: We will get it off to you right away. (S)

Prime Minister Major: What time will you be giving your speech? (U)

The President: Either 7 o'clock or 9 pm tonight. Nine is prime time on the West Coast. I was going to do it at Ft. McNair but

that is up in the air. . . When we send you the text, we will tell you the time. (S)

Prime Minister Major: That is fine but 7 your time will be too late to make the European press. (S)

The President. I know but if I give the speech in the afternoon here it will get print coverage but not much television exposure. I want you to know that I am sensitive to your considerations. We want to do nothing to complicate politics in the UK. (S)

Prime Minister Major: I am grateful. This is a momentous proposal. (S)

-- End of Conversation --