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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: President's Pull-Aside Meeting with UK Prime Minister John Major in Halifax

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Samuel Berger, Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

UK
Prime Minister John Major
Roderic Lyne, Private Secretary for Foreign Affairs

DATE, TIME: June 16, 1995, 11:30 - 11:40 a.m.
AND PLACE: Summit Place, Halifax, Canada

The President: I'm looking forward to my trip to Britain in the fall. I'm sorry we had problems with the original dates we proposed for late September. That will be the end of the fiscal year. We may be having difficulties with the Congress about the next year's budget, so I can't be out of the country at that time. (U)

Prime Minister Major: I thought you were the government! But I fully understand. Unfortunately, the later date you proposed [November 29] doesn't work for us. (U)

The President: Let's work it out. I would like to do it before the end of the year. (U)

Prime Minister Major: [REDACTED]

EO 13526 1.4b, 1.4d

The President: I will work when I get back to get money from Congress for the Rapid Reaction Force. (U)

Prime Minister Major: [REDACTED]

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Samuel Berger: Madeleine was responding, in part, to the British explanation of vote, which said that the language added to the resolution [that funding modalities would be determined later] was meaningless. She was trying to preserve our options. We need time to work this with the Congress. (C)

Prime Minister Major: I understand. (C)

The President: Why do you think the Bosnian government launched this offensive? (C)

Prime Minister Major: You were right last night. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
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The President: I agree that none of us should get involved in a combat role. On the Rapid Reaction Force, we will find a way to pay our share. (C)

Prime Minister Major: Your speech at the Irish Trade and Investment conference was perfect. It couldn't have been better if I had written it myself. It made a big difference. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED] The danger is that the whole affair will grind to a standstill. Your visit could actually help: the fact you are coming could decrease the chances of violence. So the sooner we can fix dates the better. (C)

The President: What can I do to be helpful on Northern Ireland? (C)

Prime Minister Major: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
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Roderic Lyne: We have never said anything about a timetable. (C)

Prime Minister Major: Neither have we said that weapons must be given to us. What's important is that there be movement. (C)

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Roderic Lyne:

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The President: On Russia, 'm not as pessimistic as Helmut Kohl was last night about what would happen after Yeltsin. The sense I had during my trip was that while the political situation is still very uncertain, the underlying economic trends are looking better. (C)

Roderic Lyne: Yes. Privatization is now irreversible. (C)

-- End of Conversation --

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