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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED IN PART
PER E.O. 13526

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3/6/2014 KBH

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Irish Prime Minister Bruton

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Prime Minister John Bruton

Notetakers: Daniel Flessas, Kathi Guekel,
Deuce Martinez and Katherine O'Loughlin

DATE, TIME February 9, 1996, 6:49 - 6:53 p.m.
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: Hello. (U)

Prime Minister Bruton: Hello Bill. (U)

The President: I just wanted to call and tell you how sorry I am about what happened. (U)

Prime Minister Bruton: It is dreadful really. It was completely sudden and unexpected. Thank you for your statement. It touched a lot of people. It appears a lot of Sinn Fein's leadership was taken by surprise. (C)

The President: Adams was just here a few days ago you know. (C)

Prime Minister Bruton: I know. [EO 13526 3.3(b)(6), 3.3(b)(9)]

The President: Blaming the British under these circumstances is pretty gutless. (C)

Prime Minister Bruton: [3.3(b)(6), 3.3(b)(9)] In any event, the idea that we have been putting forth on proximity talks was beginning to gain some ground, beginning to bring the British opinion around. We will land it soon enough. This of course puts this on the back burner. We obviously have a huge number of

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Reason: 1.5(b)

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decisions to take from the security perspective and what attitude to take with Sinn Fein. We don't want to rush into it, but we can't reverse the course. We have to keep hope alive. (C)

The President: Yes, I agree with that. We don't want to overreact. It is sad and troubling. (C)

Prime Minister Bruton: Yes I know. (C)

The President: I just wanted to call and check in with you and tell you if you have any ideas about what we ought to do, just give us a call and let us know what to do, and we'll do it. (C)

Prime Minister Bruton: Yes, I'd like to take the opportunity to call in a week or so, if you have the time, when things are a little clearer. (C)

The President: Oh, sure. I know you've got to think through this. I just didn't want this day to go by without talking to you. (C)

Prime Minister Bruton: I appreciate it. Thank you very much indeed. (C)

The President: Thank you, friend. (U)

Prime Minister Bruton: Good-bye. (U)

The President: Good-bye, thanks. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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