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E.O. 13526, SECTION 5.3(b)(3)

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with British Prime Minister Blair (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Prime Minister Blair

Notetakers: Joel Ehrendreich, Jenny McGee,
Miguel Aguilo, and Richard Norland

DATE, TIME May 4, 2000, 6:26-6:34 p.m. EDT
AND PLACE: Columbus, Ohio

Prime Minister Blair: Hello. (U)

The President: Hello, Tony. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Hi. Thanks for calling and speaking to
me.

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The President: Sounds like what we did in Bosnia. (S)

Prime Minister Blair:...[gap]/

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Reason: 1.5d

Declassify on: 5/8/10

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The President: I heard it all. It sounded good to me. I like this idea of third-party verification. That way the IRA keeps the nominal title to their weapons, so they didn't decommission, but they did. (S)

Prime Minister Blair: Exactly. (S)

The President: I like it. If the IRA will take it, it's a good deal. Then you'll put the government back up as soon as possible? (S)

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Prime Minister Blair: Right. [REDACTED]

The President: How about "Formerly Royal Police Service?" (C)

Prime Minister Blair: [REDACTED]

The President: You don't want me to call Gerry or Martin now? (C)

Prime Minister Blair: [REDACTED]

The President: That's good. (C)

Prime Minister Blair: There we are. We're trying our best. I [REDACTED]

The President: Well, I like this very much. I always thought the only way around this conundrum was something like secure

storage with third-party verification. I think that's about the best we can do right now. It is going to come down to whether both believe it would be a crying shame to let May come and go and basically junk the Good Friday Accord. (S)

Prime Minister Blair:

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The President: You'll find a way, and I'll be glad to call them. We've kept in touch with their people. You've got a really good proposal. I don't see how you could make it better than it is.
(S)

Prime Minister Blair:

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The President: Anything else? (U)

Prime Minister Blair: No. I will keep in close touch, if I may.
(S)

The President: You can call me in the middle of the night if you want, if this thing gets hot. You know I care deeply about it. I will do what I can. (S)

Prime Minister Blair: If you don't mind, I may have to do that.
(S)

The President: Okay, I'm eagerly looking forward to it. Okay, bye. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Okay. (U)

-- End of Conversation --