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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: Frank Jarosinski, Deana
Sutliff, Miguel Aguilo, Roger Merletti, Don
Gentile and Richard Norland

DATE, TIME February 8, 2000, 11:15 to 11:42 a.m. EST
AND PLACE: Oval Office

The President: Hello. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Hi Bill. (U)

The President: Hi Tony. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: How are you doing? (U)

The President: I'm all right. I'm having a pretty good time.
(U)

Prime Minister Blair: You just presented the budget. (U)

The President: I did it yesterday. Hillary just declared for
the Senate in New York. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Your presidential race is very
interesting. (U)

The President: Yes, it is. I can't tell where it's going yet.
It's got a few turns left in the road. We have got to see if
Bush has anything inside him to pull himself back up and respond
to McCain. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Al seems to be running pretty well. (U)

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Reason: 1.5(d)

Declassify On: 2/9/10

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INTERAGENCY SECURITY CLASSIFICATION APPEALS PANEL,
E.O. 13526, SECTION 5.3(b)(3)

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The President: He is doing fine. ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair: I think the State of the Union stuff and what I have read about the budget seems very interesting indeed. Well, I'm glad you're having a good time. (U)

The President: Yeah. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Well, let me tell you about mine. Here is where you can help me a bit.

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(b)(d)

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E.O. 13526, section 1.4(b)(d)

The President: What's your reaction to the argument that they ought to be given more time since there was a such a delay in setting up the government? 187

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E.O. 13526, section 1.4(b)(d)

Prime Minister Blair:

The President: Of course I do. I'm just trying to think about how to keep this thing together. (8)

Prime Minister Blair:

The President: Let me ask you something. Do you think any argument they use is looking for a pretext for doing this and they wanted to make it clear they did not support such things and wanted to do it partly because of the terrorist incident in the north?

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)

Prime Minister Blair:

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E.O. 13526, section 1.4(b)(d)

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E.O. 13526, section 1.4(b)(d)

The President: Well, did Adams give you any kind of opening when you asked for an act of reconciliation? ~~(S)~~

Prime Minister Blair:

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(b)(d)

The President: Let me ask you, you and Bertie have agreed on what you've asked Adams to do? ~~(S)~~

Prime Minister Blair: Right. ~~(S)~~

The President: And if he does it, do you think you can sell it to Trimble? ~~(S)~~

Prime Minister Blair:

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(b)(d)

The President: Trimble is coming over here in a couple of days -- a week or 10 days, but it will be done by then. ~~(S)~~

Prime Minister Blair: Yeah it will be done by then. What we need is a two-week breathing space. ~~(S)~~

The President: Exactly what do you think it will take to get you two weeks? ~~(S)~~

Prime Minister Blair:

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The President: Okay. I'll get in touch with Gerry and Martin and see what we can do. I'll let you know. ~~(S)~~

Prime Minister Blair: I'm sorry to lay this on you. ~~(S)~~

The President: No, no. I think about this more than anything else, besides the screw-ups in the Middle East. Let me ask you

something on a much more mundane issue. Yesterday, I met with some cabinet members and Rodney Slater said we put some more ideas down to resolve the airport dispute we have with British Airways, USAIR and American Airlines. Would you take another look at that and see if we can get it done? ~~(S)~~

Prime Minister Blair: I'm not completely familiar with that.

~~(C)~~

The President: I know you're up to your ears in other things but we've been dealing with this for years and it's sort of a big deal here. Rodney told me he put some more stuff down on the table. In a political season, it would be big over here to get this open sore resolved. If you could have somebody take a look at it. I have never seen him more agitated about anything. He is just trying to get it resolved. ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair: Sure, I will have a look. ~~(C)~~

The President: Okay, I will get on this. How is mother doing?
(U)

Prime Minister Blair: Fine. She's getting pretty large. Are you going to come over incidentally? (U)

The President: Let me tell you what we are trying to work out. You want me to come, don't you? ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair: I'm desperate to sit down and have a proper talk with you. ~~(C)~~

The President: I'm trying to figure out what the best time is because we have to do this Third Way thing in Germany and there might be time to run to Russia. We're trying to resolve bilateral issues with Russia and kind of get this Chechnya thing resolved. Putin has enormous potential, I think. I think he's very smart and thoughtful. I think we can do a lot of good with him. I'm trying to figure how to do all these things and come to London because Cherie's time is coming close. I want to come when it would cause you the least problems and try to leave open the option, if you need me to, to go to Ireland. I want to come and do you the most good. ~~(S)~~

Prime Minister Blair: It's a good idea in any sort of circumstances. They would be delighted to see you. Well, Cherie is due on May 20. I mean, anytime is good. (U)

The President: Obviously, I have to leave you a couple of weeks on the front. If we decided to do it afterward, how much time do you need for paternity leave? (U)

Prime Minister Blair: I don't know that I would need much time, more than a week, on either end of it. We'd love for you to come over and there is lots to discuss. (U)

The President: Fathers get that in Britain. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: I don't know if I'll do too much of it. (U)

The President: I just don't want to screw it up. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: It would be quite nice for you to come and see them. (U)

The President: I would love to come afterwards and get to see the baby. Let me see what I can do. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Okay Bill, we will be in touch. I would love to see you come over. (U)

The President: Okay, see you soon. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --