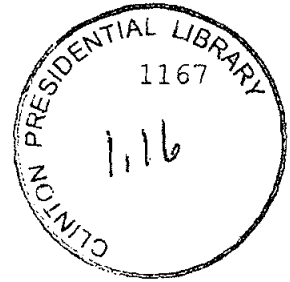


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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telecon with British Prime Minister Blair

PARTICIPANTS: President Clinton
Prime Minister Blair

Notetakers: Larry Wright, Tony Campanella,
Bob Ford, Tom Crowell, Jim Smith, Peter
Huggins

DATE, TIME FEBRUARY 12, 1998, 4:05 - 4:20 p.m. EST Oval
AND PLACE: Office

The President: Hello?

Prime Minister Blair: Hi Bill.

The President: Hey.

Prime Minister Blair: How are you?

The President: All right. We had a wonderful time with you here. I hope you enjoyed it half as much as we did.

Prime Minister Blair: We had an absolutely fantastic time. We especially enjoyed Friday night and Saturday morning.

The President: You've turned me into an icon for everyone at the State dinner.

Prime Minister Blair: We had a great time. We are so pleased at all the time you and Hillary spent with us; we really enjoyed it. I hope it wasn't too fraught or difficult for you.

The President: Everything is going okay from what we can see here; we had a great time and wanted to thank you for that.

Prime Minister Blair: Bill, I have a problem now.

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Reason: 1.5 (b, d)

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E.O. 13526, SECTION 5.3(b)(3)
ISCAP APPEAL NO. 2013-090, document no. 16
DECLASSIFICATION DATE: October 14, 2015

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The President: I know you do.

Prime Minister Blair: I spoke with Bertie Ahern this evening and here is how the land lies. There have been two murders carried out.

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

President Clinton: What were they thinking about?

Prime Minister Blair:

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

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

[REDACTED]

President Clinton: They haven't protested their innocence, have they?

Prime Minister Blair: [REDACTED]

President Clinton: What are they thinking? Do you think this is payback for what happened before?

Prime Minister Blair: [REDACTED]

President Clinton: Within the IRA?

Prime Minister Blair: [REDACTED]

President Clinton: Can you get Bertie to go along with what ever you do?

Prime Minister Blair: [REDACTED]

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

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

President Clinton: [E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)] The only thing we've done so far, because we thought it would be what you wanted, is we got in touch with Sinn Fein and told them they have to make a statement and have the IRA make a statement.

Prime Minister Blair: [E.O. 13526, section 1.4(b)(d)]

President Clinton: [E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)]

We have said that. I want to do whatever I can to be helpful, really helpful, it's important for me to keep this thing going. I don't want to get in the position of you and me against Ireland. I want some influence over those people...

Prime Minister Blair: [E.O. 13526, section 1.4(b)(d)]

President Clinton: Let me call him. Give me one more chance to hit these people, to get them to make a tough statement because you can't be caught in the middle of this: you are in a hell of a pickle.

Prime Minister Blair: [E.O. 13526, section 1.4(b)(d)]

President Clinton: Me too. It's so damned stupid unless they have a split between them and their bad guys...

Prime Minister Blair: [E.O. 13526, section 1.4(b)(d)]

President Clinton: ...and their bad guys got out of hand and their good guys don't think they have the strength to kick them publicly. It doesn't make a lick of sense.

Prime Minister Blair: No, I agree with that.

President Clinton: You are the best friend they have and they are lucky as hell they've got you in there. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)

[REDACTED] This is so stupid, but let me do this. Let me get in touch with Bertie and we'll get back together. I want to do it in a way that's possible to keep this going.

Prime Minister Blair: I just want to tell you Bill. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] E.O. 13526, section 1.4(b)(d)

President Clinton: I agree. Let me get on this and we will be back in touch. I am really sorry Tony this happened to you.

Prime Minister Blair: Well, there have been ups and downs all the way through this. We just have to make sure this works.

President Clinton: Thanks, man.

Prime Minister Blair: Let's get back in touch.

-- End of Conversation --