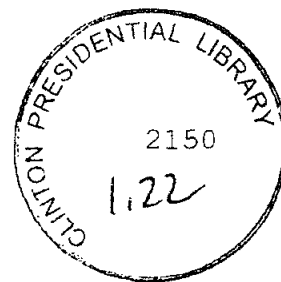


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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE
INTERAGENCY SECURITY CLASSIFICATION APPEALS PANEL,
E.O. 13526, SECTION 5.3(b)(3)

ISCAP APPEAL NO. 2013-090, document no. 22
DECLASSIFICATION DATE: October 14, 2015

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with British Prime Minister Blair
(U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Prime Minister Blair

Notetakers: Peter Huggins, Sean Rice,
Tony Campanella, Jim Smith and Lawrence
Butler

DATE, TIME March 20, 1998, 5:18 - 5:50 p.m. EST
AND PLACE: The Residence

The President: Tony. How are you? (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Fine, thank you very much. I spent the
day in Germany. (U)

The President: Where are you in Germany, Berlin? (U)

Prime Minister Blair: I went to see Helmut Kohl. I went to
Bonn. (U)

The President: I like Bonn. It's a sweet little town. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: I like it as well. (U)

The President: What is your take on the elections and on
Schroeder? (S)

Prime Minister Blair:

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The President:

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(S)

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Reason: 1.5 (b, d)

Declassify On: 3/24/08

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Prime Minister Blair:

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The President:

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)

Prime Minister Blair:

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

The President:

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)

Prime Minister Blair:

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

The President: Yeah, he's a wonderful man. (S)

Prime Minister Blair:

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The President: That's interesting, but remember, Tony, he was 18 points down in the last election, but I'm afraid in this last term they haven't been able to restore any growth. He looked good in the beginning. (S)

Prime Minister Blair:

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The President: Scharping? (S)

Prime Minister Blair: Yes, Scharping. (S)

The President:

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Prime Minister Blair:

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The President: E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d) That is
what kept us going in 1992. (S)

Prime Minister Blair: There was a sort of buzz about the place.
We had a good time. Bill, thanks for everything you've done on
Ireland. (S)

The President: I tried to do exactly what you asked me to do.
(S)

Prime Minister Blair: And you did. I deeply appreciated it. I
can't tell you how much. E.O. 13526, section 1.4(b)(d)

The President:

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Prime Minister Blair:

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The President: I tried to use public and private meetings. I met with all of them. Well almost all of them.

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Prime Minister Blair:

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The President: I see something else relevant in my observation of the Middle East, and Bosnia where we sent in an occupying army. If we didn't, the peace would have led to more violence.

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One problem is there are always enemies of peace out there. The people that killed Rabin and blew up the bombs knew exactly what they were doing. They were each other's best friends. As part of this peace deal, we have to make the deal first, but you have to have someone you trust thinking about the next steps. It is not too soon to start thinking about what you want me to do and speculate what kind of outbursts or problems you envision in the next few years. I am prepared to make whatever reasonable investment I can. I'm worried that some enemy of peace will gum it up, stop the investment coming in there and torment people. You have to have somebody thinking about it, someone you trust but who's not involved: don't take your eye off the ball. Churchill and Roosevelt were thinking about the UN in 1943 and 1944. It's not too soon to start thinking about this. (S)

Prime Minister Blair:

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The President:

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)

Prime Minister Blair:

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

The President:

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)

Prime Minister Blair:

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The President: I know. (C)

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E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)

Prime Minister Blair:

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Bill? (S)

When are you off to Africa,

The President: Sunday. We're very excited. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: It's quite a big trip. (U)

The President: Yes, for the United States. No American president has even been to Africa. Carter went to Nigeria and Liberia and Roosevelt and Reagan stopped over there. It's unconscionable what we haven't done in Africa. (C)

Prime Minister Blair: I think it's a fascinating continent. I'm really excited for you. (U)

The President: Keep your fingers crossed. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: All the best to you. I see you have been defeating your enemies as usual. Keep it up. (C)

The President: They've got a lot of money out there to get people to say a lot of stuff. We're doing extremely well, but it's a weird way to live. (C)

Prime Minister Blair: We'll talk more the next time we meet. Every time we see another one fall, we cheer. (C)

The President: Take care, man. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Okay, Bill and lots of love to Hillary. (U)

The President: Okay. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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