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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 Schrader, Miles Murphy,
Jenny McGee, Jim Smith and Lawrence Butler

DATE, TIME: March 30, 1999, 6:12 - 6:24 p.m. EST
AND PLACE: Residence

Prime Minister Blair: Hi Bill. (U)

The President: Hey Tony. How are you doing? Are you sleepy?
(U)

Prime Minister Blair: Not much sleep in Northern Ireland. (U)

The President: Kind of makes you long for the Albanians,
doesn't it? (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Pretty much. How is it going there? (U)

The President: I think your statements have been great. We
seem to have a real consensus.

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)

Prime Minister Blair:

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

The President: Yes, I agree with that. They're all saying
maybe we didn't think it through, but we didn't have all the
time in the world.

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)

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Reason: 1.5(a,b,d)

Declassify On: 4/1/09

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

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E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)

I urge you to keep briefed on this issue on particulars, in part because we are being nicked and dined on some of the details by the Allies. My instinct is to go on for maximum effectiveness. (S)

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

Prime Minister Blair:

[REDACTED]

The President:

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)

[REDACTED]

Prime Minister Blair:

[REDACTED]

The President: We need them over here. Who were they? (C)

Prime Minister Blair:

[REDACTED]

The President: Are they living in London now, or Albania? Where? (C)

Prime Minister Blair:

[REDACTED]

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

The President: Can you have your people send the names to our people so we know who they are? I want to stage a meeting here to give them some American publicity. (C)

Prime Minister Blair: I will put that in train. (C)

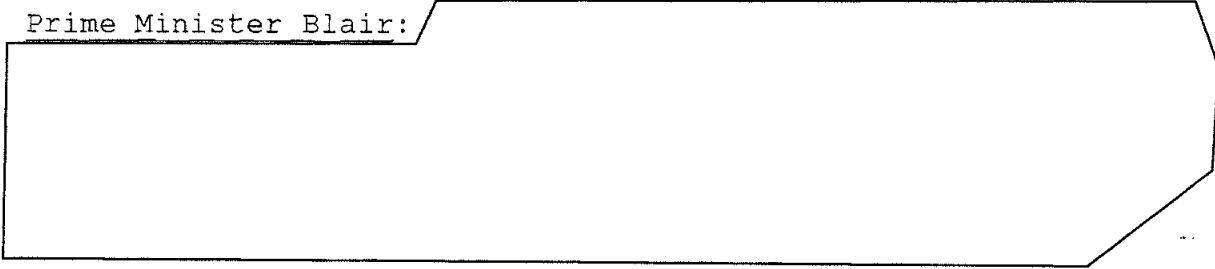
The President: Alright, where are we on Ireland? (C)

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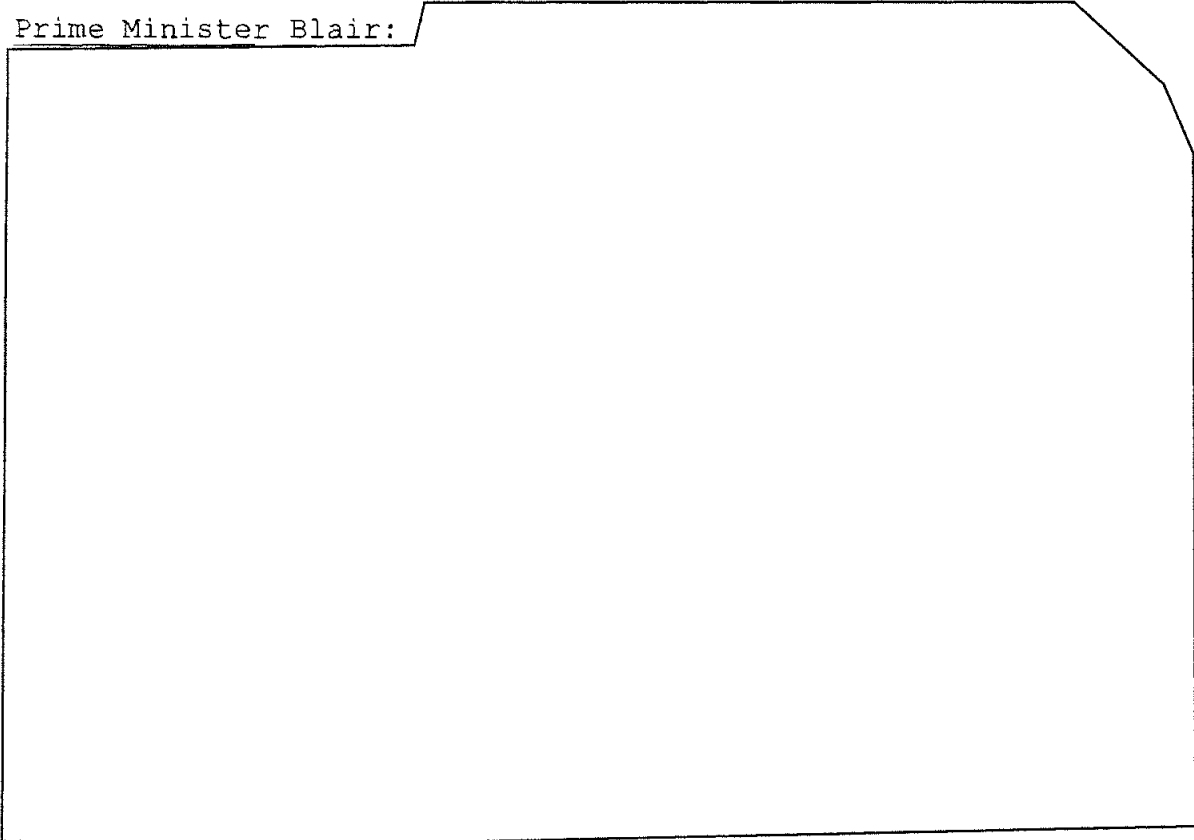
E.O. 13526, section 1.4(b)(d)

Prime Minister Blair:



The President: Why? What is their argument? ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair:



The President: What is the IRA excuse for not doing it? ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair:



The President: How can it be surrender when the war is over?
~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair:



The President: And they don't buy that? ~~(C)~~

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

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

Prime Minister Blair:

The President: Do you want me to call Gerry? ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair:

The President: When do you want me to call Adams? ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair: I think it's worth calling him. What time is it now? ~~(C)~~

The President: It's getting late. What is it, twelve-thirty there? ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair: It's probably not too late to call him even now. ~~(C)~~

The President: But in no case no later than tomorrow. OK, I'll see what I can do. ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair:

The President: All he ever wanted was an aggravated bonfire. To all of us linear thinkers it doesn't seem like much of a big deal. ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair:

The President: It doesn't look like surrender if you have all these people involved being let out of prison and all the others are involved. It's crazy. ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair:

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[REDACTED]

The President: What are you offering? What is Bertie offering?

~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair: [REDACTED]

The President: That's got to be harder for them. ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair: [REDACTED]

The President: Okay, I will follow up and give you a report. I have to call you tomorrow anyway. Thanks, Tony. ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair: Okay, thank you. (U)

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

-- End of Conversation --

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