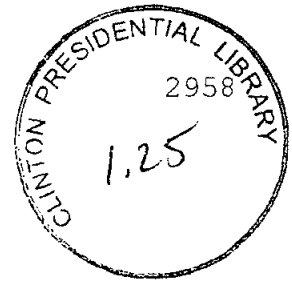


~~SECRET~~

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. 24
DECLASSIFICATION DATE: October 14, 2015

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with British Prime Minister Tony Blair (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Prime Minister Blair

Notetakers: Peter Huggins, Joseph Wright,
James Smith, Anthony Campanella and Robert Ford

DATE, TIME: April 24, 1998, 11:36-11:52 a.m. EDT
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: Hello. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Hi, Bill. (U)

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

Prime Minister Blair: Fine. Bill, I thought we should have a word to bring you up to date on Northern Ireland and the Middle East.

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

The President: Yeah, I saw some of Trimble's guys made a big show when you voted. (C)

Prime Minister Blair:

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

The President: I wonder if there is anything I can do from this end. I will have some announcements when I go to Birmingham; there are a number of things we can do, even if they don't want me to go to Ireland. One of the things we could do is have

~~SECRET~~

Classified by: Glyn T. Davies

Reason: 1.5(b, d)

Declassify On: 4/29/08

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

~~SECRET~~

2

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

Bertie come down to Birmingham and make a 10 to 15 minute presentation to the G-8, and you and I could go out and make some statements that there are some goodies on the horizon. (C)

Prime Minister Blair:

[REDACTED]

The President: In terms of my going there, I have no feelings at all on it. I just want to win the vote. This thing could be a parochial vote and those unionists could say, "this is our lives and our futures, we have to decide." (C)

Prime Minister Blair:

[REDACTED]

The President: Why don't we do an informal poll at the end of the first week in May, see where the undecided voters are by religion, and see if that would help. (C)

Prime Minister Blair:

[REDACTED]

The President: Good. (C)

Prime Minister Blair:

[REDACTED]

The President: It's a weird world, isn't it? (C)

Prime Minister Blair:

[REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~

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

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

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

~~SECRET~~

4

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

~~SECRET~~

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

~~SECRET~~

5

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

~~SECRET~~

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)

Prime Minister Blair:

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

The President: If you want to talk more about it, I will be here. ~~(S)~~

Prime Minister Blair: Thanks again, you were a real help with Ireland. ~~(S)~~

The President: It will be a great victory. You know, it will be interesting to see where the splits are between the Protestants and Catholics. I know you must have someone up there working the polls. We ought to be able to calibrate everything. The important thing is just to win the referendum. ~~(S)~~

Prime Minister Blair:

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

The President: This thing is bigger than foreign policy. You're better at campaigning than the rest of them and have a more sophisticated insight; you should just treat it like another election and do whatever is necessary to win the election. ~~(S)~~

Prime Minister Blair: Right. Thanks Bill, all the best. Love to Hillary. (U)

The President: Bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --