

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with British Prime Minister Blair (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
Prime Minister Blair

Notetakers: Deana Sutliff, Frank Jarosinski,  
Joel Ehrendreich, Matthew Sibley, Don  
Gentile, Richard Norland

DATE, TIME May 15, 2000, 5:20 - 5:34 p.m. EDT  
AND PLACE: The Residence

Prime Minister Blair: Hello. (U)

The President: Hey, Tony. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Hi, Bill. How are you doing? (U)

The President: I'm great. I'm watching the end of an old Peter  
Sellers movie. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Which one? (U)

The President: I can't tell. I've only seen about five minutes.  
But Herbert Long just disappeared along with a castle. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Pink Panther, I think. (U)

The President: I think it's the second one. It's funny as hell.  
(U)

Prime Minister Blair: He was so funny, Peter Sellers. Anyway...  
(U)

The President: I just wanted to put you in good humor since  
you're dealing with Northern Ireland. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: I just wanted to bring you up to date.

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

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INTERAGENCY SECURITY CLASSIFICATION APPEALS PANEL,  
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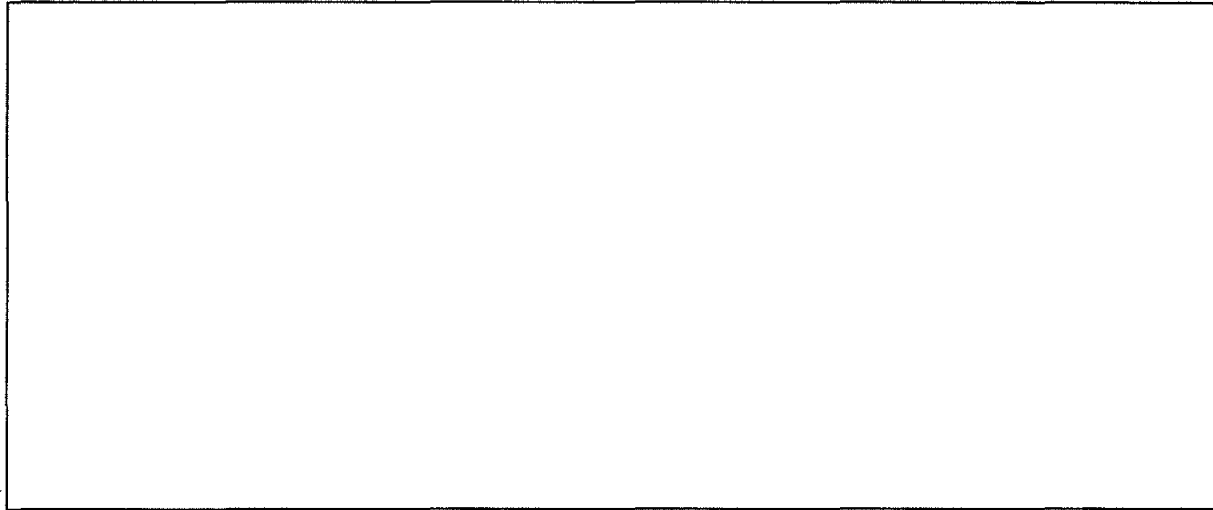
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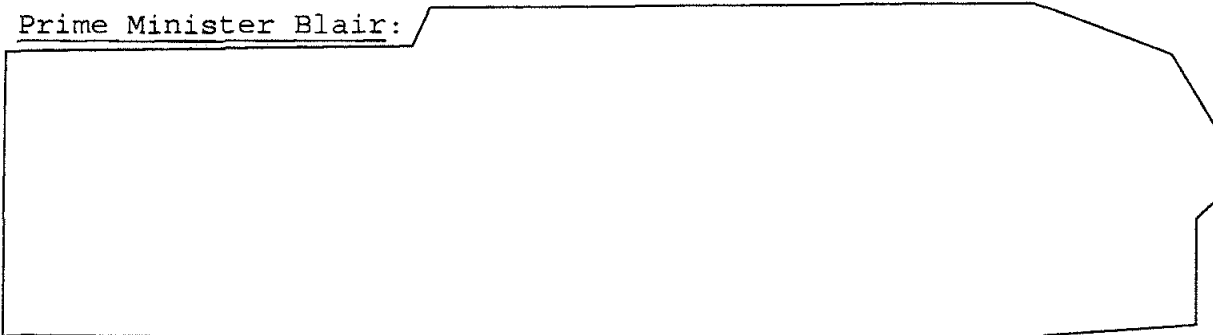
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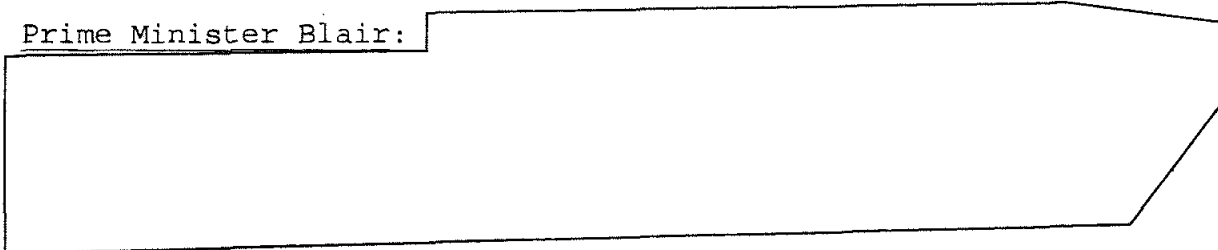
The President: What does your legislation say right now? ~~(c)~~

Prime Minister Blair:



The President: When do you have to move on this? ~~(c)~~

Prime Minister Blair:



The President: Weren't they saying before -- when you and I were talking, I had a copy of the other legislation -- weren't they claiming that they... ~~(c)~~

Prime Minister Blair:



The President: But weren't the republicans saying if you did that, unionists would just say that all time, and, therefore, the Catholics wouldn't join? ~~(c)~~

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Prime Minister Blair:

The President: But the real fact is you would take it off. (C)

Prime Minister Blair:

The President: Let me see what I can do. I'll mull it over a bit. Let me ask you this. What do you think should be done in Sierra Leone? Your guys have done a good job there. (C)

Prime Minister Blair:

The President: We're talking about it here. My take on this is that we could strengthen the UN hand if the Nigerians go in, and you and whoever can stay in the coastal areas and the city, but you don't want to be subjected to being picked off in those jungles by those crazy people. They've got all these young kids they've brutalized, hopped up on drugs. I think if we can defeat that kind of thing, it would be a good thing to do. (C)

Prime Minister Blair:

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[REDACTED]

The President: Yes. (C)

Prime Minister Blair: [REDACTED]

The President: Yes, we're taking them in. (C)

Prime Minister Blair: [REDACTED]

The President: I think you're doing fine. I'm just worried about whether we're doing enough and how to do it. I think having you there and securing the airport is about what you should be doing. You don't have enough people to venture out, and I would hate to see you go out and be shot into fodder. I think we need more troops. They will be scared if the Nigerians come in there in full force and the Indians are willing to do so. I may want to call you again if you think there is something else we should do. Let me know if we can help you. You've done a good thing.

[REDACTED]

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Prime Minister Blair: [REDACTED]

The President: I agree with that. You keep chewing on that. I'll get back to you on that and on the Irish thing. (C)

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Prime Minister Blair: Okay, Bill.

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The President: It's too bad the unionists won't let you kick the can down the road a bit. If you could, the issue would become relatively less important to both sides once things are up and running. *let*

Prime Minister Blair:

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The President: How's mama Cherie doing? (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Fine. She's about a week away from producing. (U)

The President: Is she in a bad humor about being big? (U)

Prime Minister Blair: She's okay. She's been in court today. (U)

The President: Good! (U)

Prime Minister Blair: She's going to court to take on the government over parental leave. Don't even talk to me about it. She is great, but she could produce at any time. (U)

The President: That's great. Alright, I'll see you soon. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Okay, Bill. (U)

The President: Thanks. Bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --