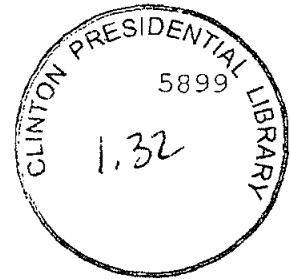


~~SECRET~~

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with British Prime Minister Blair
(U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Prime Minister Blair

Notetakers: David Higgins, Lyle Harrison,
Cindy Lawrence, Liz Rogers, Jim Smith and
Lawrence Butler

DATE, TIME August 20, 1998, 4:52 - 4:59 p.m. EDT
AND PLACE: Oval Office

Prime Minister Blair: Hello, Bill. (U)

The President: Hi, Tony. I am sorry the other phone was not working. Thank you for your statement. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Not at all. It is important it is done.
(U)

The President: Yes. We thought they were having a big meeting there today, but we won't know for sure for a few hours. This place we hit is maybe the biggest terrorist camp in the world, with 500-600 people there at a time. We thought we had good intelligence that the leaders planned to meet there, but unfortunately it was reported in the international press; there was no hint in our press of any consideration of an attack. (S)

There was a report yesterday of rumors, and more than rumors, that we were concerned that they planned to attack a third embassy. We also took down one of their cells in the Balkans, so they are annoyed at us anyway. I'm sure you know this guy signed a Fatwa and said that he would kill thousands of our people. (S)

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)

~~SECRET~~

Reason: 1.5(b,d)

Declassify On: 8/21/08

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E.O. 13526, SECTION 5.3(b)(3)
ISCAP APPEAL NO. 2013-090, document no. 31
DECLASSIFICATION DATE: October 14, 2015

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)

I am very grateful for
your statement. ~~(S)~~

Prime Minister Blair: Not at all. So, what has actually
happened tonight? ~~(S)~~

The President:

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)

Prime Minister Blair: Yeah. ~~(S)~~

The President: So that is where we are. We don't know what we
got in Afghanistan, but in the worst case we took out his
training facility. So we have to hope for the best, but even in
the worst case, it was worth doing.

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

~~(S)~~

Prime Minister Blair:

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

The President: Yes. (U)

Prime Minister Blair:

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

The President: Let me tell you, I need to speak to the Pakistani Prime Minister before I go on TV, but I need to call you next week to talk to you about Ireland before I come. (C)

Prime Minister Blair:

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

The President: All right, my friend. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: All the very best to you. Goodbye. (U)

The President: Goodbye.

-- End of Conversation --