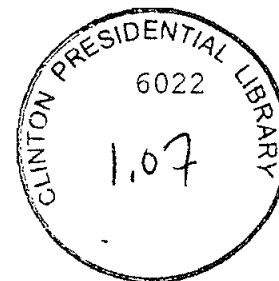


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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: British Prime Minister Tony Blair (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Prime Minister Blair

Notetakers: Doug Mueller, Bonnie Glick,
Sean Rice and Larry Butler

DATE, TIME September 1, 1997, 11:29 - 11:54 a.m.
AND PLACE: Martha's Vineyard

The President: Tony? (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Hi, Bill. It's a grim business, a very grim business. (U)

The President: It's awful, it's really awful. We're up here on Martha's Vineyard vacationing, and we're with a lot of people who knew her. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: We saw her again just weeks ago when we hosted her for lunch with Prince William, he's a great kid. (U)

The President: Yeah, I worry a lot about those kids now. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: She was such a rock of stability in the sense she connected them with the outside world. The eldest boy, William, is quite like her in a way, he is very "feet on the ground," he does things kids his age do. (U)

The President: Well, I just feel so bad for her. She was just basically getting a hold of her life. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Thanks for your telegram yesterday and your kind words. The problem was the way she lived, in a press frenzy. It's impossible to contemplate how intrusive it was, into every single aspect of her life. The last time I spoke

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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. 7
DECLASSIFICATION DATE: October 14, 2015

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with her, she said that were it not for the boys, she'd be off the board. The country is stunned. (C)

The President: They liked her a lot, didn't they. (C)

Prime Minister Blair: She was not the royal family but she was liked by ordinary people, it gave her problems with the royal establishment. (C)

The President: Well, I know it's a difficult time for you. I just wanted to let you know I was thinking of you. (C)

Prime Minister Blair: I will personally miss her, it's like a star falling. She was a star for them. (C)

The President: What do they know? Is the British security guard who was with her still alive? (C)

Prime Minister Blair: Yes, he is. And he may be able to offer some more information. There has been some talk this afternoon. They went to the hotel and thought they would be left alone. The Embassy and the French government did not know they were there. The media turned up, so they decided to go to dinner then on to one of al-Fayed's houses. When they got to their car, it did not start. They called someone from the hotel and the hotel provided a car and driver. Apparently he'd been drinking. (C)

The President: That's what I was afraid of. Those guys were chasing them? (C)

Prime Minister Blair: Jumped on them as they left the hotel, yet I can't believe some of the reports of how fast they were going though. It's just not possible they were going 100 mph - I mean, I know Paris. They wouldn't have to be going that fast in those tunnels, though. They must have hit a rim in the road and turned over and smashed into a wall. (C)

The President: It's a sad thing, I tell you. (C)

Prime Minister Blair: Yes, someone we knew and liked. She had a remarkable gift. She was beginning to get her life together. (C)

The President: Yes, Hillary had a nice visit with her a few weeks ago when she was here. We liked her a lot. I just think that anything you can do for those boys, I don't know how

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[redacted] E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d) [redacted] in a situation like this, about the challenges they will face. (C)

Prime Minister Blair: I'll try to keep in touch and have them over.

[redacted] E.O. 13526, section 1.4(b)(d) [redacted]

The President: What about her sisters? What are they like?

[redacted] E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d) [redacted] (C)

Prime Minister Blair:

[redacted] E.O. 13526, section 1.4(b)(d) [redacted]

The President:

[redacted] E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d) [redacted]

Prime Minister Blair:

[redacted] E.O. 13526, section 1.4(b)(d) [redacted]

The President:

[redacted] E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d) [redacted]

Hillary and I just wanted to tell you all we were thinking of you. (C)

Prime Minister Blair: Your words yesterday were greatly appreciated. Thank you. So you are on holiday now? (U)

The President: I'm having a good holiday. It's the longest vacation we have had in ten years. We're getting ready to send Chelsea off to university. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Are you looking forward to that? (U)

The President: She is, but that's all part of it, it's what you raise them for. (U)

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Prime Minister Blair: You're going straight to California from there, then? (U)

The President: No, we have one more week here, then we go back to Washington for a week to ten days, then we will go to California to take her out there. (U)

You're doing well in Northern Ireland, no? ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair:

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

~~(C)~~

The President: The Sinn Fein shouldn't have a problem with that. ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair:

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

The President: He's actually been good about this, under the circumstances. ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair:

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

The President: Do you think there is anything we can do to Trimble to stroke him? ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair:

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

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The President: I think they're worried about being rendered irrelevant in 20 years, given the way the demographics are going, it's better to make a deal now rather than later. ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair:

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

The President: If you look at it, their popular majority is eroding over time with the increasing birth rates, so now is the time. You'll have to come up with some sort of creative dual relationship. ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair:

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

The President: That's consistent with what you are doing in Scotland and Wales, anyway. ~~(C)~~

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: No one wants to get up and put a sandwich in a lunch tin to go to the factory if you have this going on. ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair:

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

So all is well with you? You're getting re-engaged in the Middle East? ~~(C)~~

The President:

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)

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[redacted]
difficult position,

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)

We're in a
but we don't
want to be someone on the outside just seen as complaining.

We've got a good set of ideas. (C)

Prime Minister Blair: What's your actual estimate? (C)

The President:

[redacted]
E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)

[redacted]
Now that time has passed, there is hope for some
progress. (C)

[redacted]
E.O. 13526, section 1.4(b)(d)

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Prime Minister Blair:

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

The President:

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)

Things are getting a little better in Bosnia. Plavsic is showing some get up and go. You've got a decision coming your way that we can't discuss on this line, but I think things are going in the right direction over the last weeks, no the last couple of months, after a bad year. I feel good about this. We've got a shot to move it forward. (U)

Prime Minister Blair:

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

The President: Tell Cherie I said hello. I just wanted to talk to you today. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Give our love to Hillary. Thanks for calling about Diana. (U)

The President: Take care, friend. Bye. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Goodbye Bill. All the best. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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