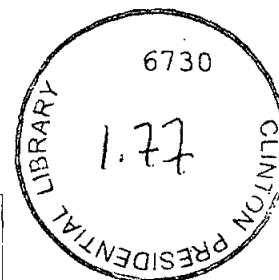


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THE WHITE HOUSE

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. 75
DECLASSIFICATION DATE: October 14, 2015

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with British Prime Minister Blair
(U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Prime Minister Blair

Notetakers: Michael Manning, Deana Sutliff,
Roger Merletti, James Smith and Richard
Norland

DATE, TIME September 8, 1999, 5:13 - 5:32 p.m. EDT
AND PLACE: Oval Office

The President: Hello. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Hi, Bill. (U)

The President: Tony, how are you? (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Fine, I'm great. I've had a very good
holiday and I'm feeling good. (U)

The President: Did you go to Italy? (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Yes, I went to Italy and France and had a
good time... Where were you now? (U)

The President: I was in Martha's Vineyard and then New York,
but I'm about to go off to New Zealand for a week, and I wanted
to talk to you before I left. I've been talking to everybody
about this East Timor situation and the rumor mill is rife that
Habibie might be deposed or they're sending some military leader
out there who says he will never give East Timor up. I believe
we all need to put as much pressure as possible on Indonesia to
accept a force and then figure out who'll make it up. The
Aussies are ready to go, they want to send 2,000 or 3,000 people

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Reason: 1.5(d)

Declassify On: 9/10/09

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there; they don't think it will take very many people. And, if the UN approved it, the Chinese might even send some people. But I think it would be a very embarrassing comparison to Kosovo if Indonesia runs all the Timorese out of the country or if they reverse it and we don't do anything. We've got to do something, it seems to me, so anything you can do to put the heat on Indonesia would be helpful. (C)

Prime Minister Blair: I agree.

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The President: Guterres is [redacted] going to table a motion even if Indonesia won't support it. He's got to. He said there was a 10-km human chain demonstrating against him. (C)

Prime Minister Blair:

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The President: Absolutely right. (C)

Prime Minister Blair:

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The President: Yes. (C)

Prime Minister Blair:

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The President: Me neither, but we'll keep working on it. That was my whole worry [redacted] that there would be nobody you can work with. It's a tough deal. (C)

Prime Minister Blair:

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[REDACTED]

The President: Yes. I think -- I don't think the Chinese will allow the resolution to go through if they don't accept it, because of this whole sovereignty thing. ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair: [REDACTED]

The President: No. ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair: I haven't, either. ~~(C)~~

The President: The reason I haven't -- there's a rumor he's being deposed now -- the reason I haven't called is, every time I put pressure on him, he gets unmerciful grief there that he's toadying to the United States.

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Prime Minister Blair: [REDACTED]

The President: E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)

[REDACTED] I wanted to say a word about the Balkans. I got your letter and I understand the pressure you're under to cut deployment in order to increase readiness and retention, but I hope you can maintain your position as a lead nation in both Bosnia and Kosovo, because our partnership there has been a bedrock of success and the Russians, I believe, are working out better than we'd hoped. I think the Kosovo thing is settling down, if we can just hang on. Your letter indicated you're talking to allies about making contributions to backfill your forces. I don't know how that's going, but I hope we can maintain a good level of cooperation and ability with whoever goes in there. ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair: [REDACTED]

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The President: Me, too. I think we shouldn't get too soft on these sanctions against Serbia. I think we ought to tighten the sanctions on Milosevic and his crowd. I hope you'll get the other guys in line. ~~(S)~~

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Prime Minister Blair:

[REDACTED]

(C)

The President: Have you talked to Schroeder since his election setback? ~~(S)~~

Prime Minister Blair: No.

[REDACTED]

The President:

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Prime Minister Blair: I'm due to see him in the next couple of weeks. ~~(S)~~

The President: I'll try to call him before I leave for Asia. There's not much I can do, but I can encourage him. ~~(S)~~

Prime Minister Blair:

[REDACTED]

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The President: I agree. How are we doing on Northern Ireland?
How's George doing? (C)

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Prime Minister Blair: George is doing fine.

The President: The Catholic? (C)

Prime Minister Blair: Yes.

The President: It was unanimous, wasn't it? Including the two
Americans? (C)

Prime Minister Blair:

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The President: Don't you think it will just get worse if we
don't resolve the politics of it? (C)

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Prime Minister Blair:

The President: You don't think there's any chance the Mitchell talks will produce a breakthrough? ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair: I think there's some chance, but it's pretty slim at the moment.

The President: I'm ready any time. You just have to tell me when. ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair:

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The President: So, the main thing you want me to do now is say something nice about the Patten report? ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair: For us, now, that is the critical thing. ~~(C)~~

The President: I'll be down in New Zealand, but there's a hell of a lot going on in the world at the moment, and we can always talk. I just wanted you to know I'll be out of pocket for the next week or 10 days. ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair: When am I going to see you? Are you doing the Third Way thing in Florence? (U)

The President: Absolutely. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: They're all very excited. (U)

The President: You shouldn't be the only guy speaking English who gets to go to Italy. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: When I was in Italy I learned a little Italian. (U)

The President: You did? (U)

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Prime Minister Blair: Enough to get by. [REDACTED]

The President: Is he one of ours? ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair: Yes, he's one of ours. [REDACTED]

The President: Gosh, I thought I had had him in here. Let me check it out. ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair: [REDACTED]

The President: Got it. When are his elections? ~~(C)~~

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Prime Minister Blair:

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The President: Okay, I'll do it. Thank you. (S)

Prime Minister Blair: Okay, Bill. Have a good time in New Zealand. (U)

The President: Okay. Goodbye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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