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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

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

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Prime Minister Blair

Notetakers: Jenny McGee, Joel Ehrendreich,
Robert Ford, Hoyt Yee and Richard Norland

DATE, TIME November 26, 1999, 11:55 a.m.-12:02 p.m. EST
AND PLACE: Penn National Golf Course, Maryland

The President: Can you hear me? I am celebrating Thanksgiving with my entire family. The wind is blowing and the rain is going like crazy. I might as well be in England. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Where are you? (U)

The President: I am up at Camp David. I am out playing golf and it is raining like hell, and the wind is blowing. (U)

Prime Minister Blair:

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The President: Can I help in any way? ~~let~~

Prime Minister Blair:

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Classified by: Robert A. Bradtke

Reason: 1.5(d)

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The President: I will do that and put a statement out immediately. (C)

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Prime Minister Blair: [Redacted]

The President: Sounds to me like you got some pretty good language with Chirac on the European Security issue. (C)

Prime Minister Blair: [Redacted]

The President: I just don't want to give the isolationists here any encouragement. (C)

Prime Minister Blair: I appreciate that. [Redacted]

The President: I agree. You are doing the right thing, and I am behind you. (C)

Prime Minister Blair: I think it might be helpful, if at some stage, I came over and saw some of the people on the Hill and made a speech. (C)

The President: I agree with that. (C)

Prime Minister Blair: [Gap] [Redacted]

The President: Let me ask you one other thing. I hear Chirac wouldn't go along with the position you wanted to take on Cyprus. (C)

Prime Minister Blair: [Redacted]

(C)

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The President: No, I just heard something and it may not be right. The main thing, I know what Simitis wants you to say. But it would be good if it didn't leak until as close to the 10th as possible. That would give us a week to get these talks, (with Denktash), in New York, and I don't want to give him any excuse to leave. ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair:

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~~(C)~~

The President: [GAP]

Prime Minister Blair:

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The President: That's good news. ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair: Incidentally, I thought you did brilliantly in Florence. (U)

The President: Oh, thanks. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: You made a big impression on Jospin. ~~(C)~~

The President: I tried to make him see that you and I were not threatening everything he believes in. ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair: It would be really good to get together in the next few months. I have so much that I would like to go through with you. ~~(C)~~

The President: When would be good? Is January better for you than February? ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair: We will see what we can arrange. If it's not a summit in Bermuda, we can try something else. ~~(C)~~

The President: I will look for something on the calendar. We will do a statement on devolution and will clear it with you in advance. ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair: Okay Bill, all the best. (U)

The President: Okay, bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --