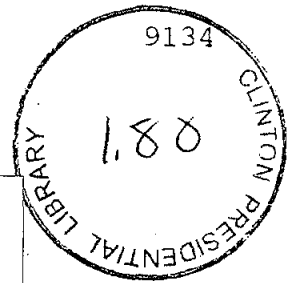


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THE WHITE HOUSE

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. 78
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, Frank Jarosinski, Miguel Aguilo, and Jim Smith

DATE, TIME: December 16, 1999, 5:01 - 5:11 p.m. EST
AND PLACE: Oval Office

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

Prime Minister Blair: How are you getting on? (U)

The President: I'm fine. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Prodi will be here tomorrow and I will spend some time with him. I think there will be some investments needed, and we'll carry a lot of it, but we may need EU help [REDACTED] If things get resolved, it might come to a head in a couple of months. (C)

Prime Minister Blair: That would be marvelous. (C)

The President: That would be unbelievable, wouldn't it? (C)

Prime Minister Blair: When is Prodi getting there? Tomorrow, is he? (U)

The President: Yes. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: So they are going to come back in early January, and you think you can pull it together then? (C)

The President: Yes, I do. (C)

Prime Minister Blair: That would be fantastic. If you can put this and Northern Ireland together, it would be pretty good. (C)

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The President: Yes. That would be a good deal. Trimble is coming in the next few days and I will see him. And we are doing what we can with Sinn Fein on the issue of IRA guns. ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair: [REDACTED]

The President: That's good. The only other thing I wanted to mention is that I think it is important to bring this Iraq resolution to a vote tomorrow. I know the French are going to abstain, but we've got to get something moving -- this thing is stuck on idle. ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair: [REDACTED]

The President: You mean with Iraq? ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair: Yes. ~~(C)~~

The President: I don't know. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: We played around with this for so long, we should go for it. ~~(C)~~

The President: I think it will give us an idea of where to go next. ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair: If we let it go much longer, it will get complicated for everybody, [REDACTED]

The President: I agree. ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair: It is sad for the people in Iraq. So is everything all right with you apart from this? ~~(C)~~

The President: Yes. I'm doing fine and I am delighted things are going well. We have to just keep working at it -- chipping away. ~~(C)~~

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Prime Minister Blair: [REDACTED]

The President: [REDACTED] E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d) [REDACTED] Are you preparing to be a father again? ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair: It was so unexpected. [REDACTED]

The President: Yes, they have their good selves and their bad selves. ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair: [REDACTED]

The President: Yes, we have to keep working at it. ~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair: Are you getting any golf in? (U)

The President: No, but I'll play soon. I have to get this work out of the way first. (U)

I am really thrilled about the Helsinki decisions. The Turkey-EU thing is a big move and it will be a big help. It will bring resolution to other issues. The ESDI decision was good, too.

~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair: [REDACTED]

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The President: He's really good. ~~(S)~~

Prime Minister Blair: [REDACTED]

The President: Yep, I am quite worried about it, too. ~~(S)~~

Prime Minister Blair: [REDACTED]

The President: The in-crowd is making a lot of votes on Chechnya. Maybe it will change when people start seeing a lot of body bags, but as long as they keep getting the votes, they'll keep doing it. ~~(S)~~

Prime Minister Blair: [REDACTED]

The President: [REDACTED]

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Prime Minister Blair: Larry Summers came through here the other day. I had a good chat with him. ~~(S)~~

The President: He's a good man. ~~(S)~~

Prime Minister Blair: We talked about the IMF job and all the rest of it. (C)

The President: We've got to get somebody good. ~~(S)~~

Prime Minister Blair: Really good. ~~(S)~~

The President: You take care of yourself. I will keep you posted on the Middle East stuff. It will take a little money. ~~(S)~~

Prime Minister Blair: [REDACTED]

The President: Not yet. I will say something to Prodi, then we'll see. ~~(S)~~

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

The President: Thanks. Bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --