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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED IN PART
PER E. O. 13526

2013-0449-17 (7.59)
3/6/2019 KBH

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Prime Minister John Bruton (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Prime Minister John Bruton

Notetakers: Ted Seigny, Katherine
O'Loughlin, Elaine Florio, Mary Ann Peters
and Deuce Martinez

DATE, TIME February 23, 1996, 9:15 - 9:20 a.m. EST
AND PLACE: Air Force One

The President: Hello? (U)

Prime Minister Bruton: Hello is that Bill? (U)

The President: Yes, How are you? (U)

Prime Minister Bruton: It's good to talk to you. Thanks for
going to the trouble to call me. (U)

The President: Well, I just wanted to check in with you. I've
been keeping in close touch with events and I appreciate the
great efforts your government and the British are making to
revive the peace process and get it going again. I know you have
been working on a package to allow all-party talks to start if a
cease-fire is restored. It will then be up to Adams to get the
IRA to agree. I just wanted to call and see where you are and
see what else I can to help. (C)

Prime Minister Bruton: The specific thing we need is a definite
date for all-party talks. The British and the unionists want
elections first to give a mandate. The nationalists, John Hume's
people, are unhappy about that. I think we could get them to
accept some form of election so long as the transition to talks
is absolutely direct and there would be no delay and no further
conditions. For instance, if the elections are set for May 10
and negotiations for May 15, there will be no question of
anything happening in between to keep postponing the talks. The
best and only chance to get the IRA to restore the cease-fire is
if a specific date is designated.

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The President: Well, we will do everything we can. I stay in touch with Adams as you know. I'll do what I can to persuade Hume to reach agreement on an election proposal. (C)

Prime Minister Bruton: Yes, that would be very helpful. (C)

The President: Call me at any time. I am heartsick about this but I believe we still have a shot at getting this back on track so if there is anything I can do, I'll do it. (C)

Prime Minister Bruton: Thank you. The timetable looks like Wednesday for my meeting with Major. We won't have a clear picture of what the British will do until Monday so it will be a short period of time before Wednesday. I may need to talk to you then, or I may not if things go well. That's the timeframe of when things will or will not get done. (C)

The President: That's great. I'll be around and available. You can find me when you need me. (C)

Prime Minister Bruton: Thank you for taking the trouble to call. It's a critical situation right now. (C)

The President: I think we know what our marching orders are and you know you can call on me. (C)

Prime Minister Bruton: Thank you. Bye-bye now. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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