

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED
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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Former British Prime Minister
John Major (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
John Major

Notetakers: Natalie Johnson, Sean Rice and
David Higgins

DATE, TIME May 3, 1997; 12:22-12:26 p.m. EDT
AND PLACE: Oval Office

The President: Hello. (U)

Former Prime Minister Major: Hi, Bill. How are you? (U)

The President: Fine. I just called to tell you that I was
thinking about you. (U)

Former Prime Minister Major: Well, God bless. Thank you. Life
is a funny old game, but that's politics. (U)

The President: I finally got asked a question about you and I
wanted to tell you what I said before it appears in your press.
I said, "I am looking forward to working with Mr. Blair, and I
like him very much. The Conservatives had a good long run. I
have no judgement about what happened domestically because I
wasn't there and I'm not a British citizen, but the people of
Great Britain should be very proud of John Major. He represented
his nation very well in the world. He was patriotic, strong and
effective." You did good work on Bosnia and Northern Ireland.
You never got credit for what you did. The British people should
be proud of what you accomplished. Your party hurt you more than
you hurt it. (U)

Former Prime Minister Major: Thank you, that's very generous of
you. I shall miss it, but I'm not broken-hearted. Tony Blair
will do fine. (U)

The President: Are you going to stay in Parliament? (U)

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Reason: 1.5(b)

Declassify On: 5/5/07

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Former Prime Minister Major: I'm going to stay in Parliament, but I'm not going to stay as party leader. Frankly, it would be sort of odd taking an opposition post. There's nothing left for me to do. I have been in government for 14 years now without a break. Every weekend I'm in the box. It is time for some time off. I will stay in parliament for this term and maybe beyond, but who knows. I may decide at the end of this Parliament, that there are other things I would like to do. I'm at an age when some have not even served in parliament. (U)

The President: I really think that it was your party that let you down, but I think that history has treated you very well. The economy is in great shape. You've turned the economy around. (U)

Former Prime Minister Major: Yes. The economy is just booming. Tony will have to go a long way to break it. (U)

The President: I always felt ticked off that your press said we didn't get along and that there was something between me and you, but I always thought we had a good relationship. (U)

Former Prime Minister Major: Thanks, Bill that's very generous of you. How is Hillary? (U)

The President: She is fine, and you know our daughter has picked a college, she's going off to Stanford. We will have an empty nest next year. (U)

Former Prime Minister Major: I remember when I first saw her, she seemed a little girl. Isn't it astonishing? (U)

The President: Yes. Hillary and I just had some of Chelsea's graduating class over last night, and I was telling Hillary that our little girl is all grown up. I was looking at all these kids, and telling Hillary it seems like just yesterday that we were in high school. Hillary and I will have to figure out what to do with each other after 18 years. (U)

Former Prime Minister Major: That happens. (U)

The President: Let me know when you will next be over here. I'd like to stay in touch. I'm a lame duck and I'll be out too in a couple years. Give my best to Norma. (U)

Former Prime Minister Major: I will, and Norma says hello to Hillary. (U)

The President: I will tell her. (U)

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Former Prime Minister Major: Thank you and good-bye.

The President: Bye, and God bless.

-- End of Conversation --

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