

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Irish Prime Minister Bertie
Ahern

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Prime Minister Ahern

Notetakers: David Higgins, Sean Rice,
George Chastain, Joel Schrader and
Lawrence Butler

DATE, TIME May 23, 1998, 12:13 - 12:16 p.m. EDT
AND PLACE: Camp David, Maryland

The President: Hello?

Prime Minister Ahern: Hello, Mr. President?

The President: Bertie, it's a great day for the Irish. You must know by name every S.O.B. that voted in the Republic.

Prime Minister Ahern: I think we got 95 percent.

The President: They broke 70 percent in the North.

Prime Minister Ahern: Well I headed out trying to get 80-20 here, but I think its going to be 95-5 on a huge vote. It's almost as good as our last election. I'm really happy about that. Yes, by our reckoning they got 71 percent. Four or five percent of the Republicans would have voted "No," but it is certainly a majority of Republicans by five percent. There is a majority of Unionists who voted "Yes," but even on the very worst case every single nationalist would have to have voted against. That couldn't have happened, so, clearly I would say five or six percent more voted "No;" but we got the Nationalists, Republicans, Irish and that wasn't bad, Mr. President.

The President: God it's wonderful. I'm happy for you.

Prime Minister Ahern: I appreciate your help. We look forward to getting you back soon.

The President: Well, if there is anything we can do to help, you let me know. I hope the assembly elections now go as well.

Prime Minister Ahern: Paisley will have to be negative.

The President: Well, I bet a lot of people who voted with Paisley will be sufficiently impressed to come over and work with this agreement.

Prime Minister Ahern: About 85 percent of the island voted "Yes." I can't think of anywhere in the world where such a clear vote has been held in the last 50 years.

The President: God, it's so touching.

Prime Minister Ahern: We appreciate all your effort Mr. President. If we didn't internationalize this, it would never have happened Mr. President. Without your support we never would have been able to stay around the table.

The President: I can't wait to come because it will be a great celebration.

Prime Minister Ahern: We'll have a good celebration.

The President: Keep in touch.

Prime Minister Ahern: Thank you, Mr. President. We look forward to seeing you get back here.

The President: I look forward to getting back. Take care, good bye.

Prime Minister Ahern: Goodbye.

-- End of Conversation --