

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with John Hume, Social Democratic and Labour Party Leader

PARTICIPANTS: The President
John Hume

Notetakers: Cindy Lawrence, Anthony Campanella, Robert Ford, Joel Schrader and Lawrence Butler

DATE, TIME May 23, 1998, 7:05 - 7:09 p.m. EDT
AND PLACE: Camp David, Maryland

The President: John?

Mr. Hume: Yes. Hi there, Mr. President.

The President: I just wanted to say congratulations before the day was over.

Mr. Hume: Thanks a million. Thank you for your help and support. We could not have done it without you, and we would not be where we are today.

The President: Well, I'm just thrilled. Everyone over here is ecstatic.

Mr. Hume: Very good. It was truly amazing and quite an historic day. We had 80 percent come out to vote and 71 percent voted yes.

The President: You got a slight majority of the Protestants, didn't you?

Mr. Hume: Oh, yes, right across the board. There is a great mood among the people. It was marvelous all together. There is great gratitude for all you've done.

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The President: Well, thank you. It's been my pleasure. We have to keep at it and I'll do my part.

Mr. Hume: Absolutely! The months ahead will be very crucial. Politicians are now moving to work together across our divide. The real thing is working the common ground, which I call economics. Economically, both sides will be able to break down the barriers of centuries.

The President: I agree with that. Like I said, I am ready to go to work. I talked to Bertie and Tony and others.

Mr. Hume: That will be very good and encouraging to everyone. I understand that the Secretary of State (sic - Commerce) will be coming here next month.

The President: That's what I hear.

Mr. Hume: Funny, the two days he is here, I am in New York. I will be looking forward to your next visit.

The President: Yes, I'd like to come. It's a great day. It took years and years. You must feel somewhat vindicated today.

Mr. Hume: Ah, yes. It's very good. I told people the problem has not changed and neither should our approach to solve it. You know what is really interesting is the mood of the people, especially the mood of the young people. Young people are generally very cynical about politics; but their positive response in the streets -- I couldn't believe it. It was powerful. We had a special show the other night with U2, you know the pop group. Well, a young person got up on stage and said, "our generation is the one generation that has lived with the troubles our whole life. And we don't want to see another generation live through it." The statement made a tremendous impact.

The President: Oh great.

Mr. Hume: I am about to call your Ambassador, Jean Kennedy Smith. She had a great TV show last night. It was on all over. It's a pity she's leaving us.

The President: She's a good soul.

Mr. Hume: She really got down to the grass-root level in a way most ambassadors don't.

The President: Well, I'll try to pick another good one for you who will do the same.

Mr. Hume: I look forward to seeing you. Thanks a million.

The President: Thank you. Goodbye, friend.

Mr. Hume: All the best.

-- End of Conversation --