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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED
PER E.O. 13526

2016-0375-M (1.27)

KSH 7/31/2019

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Social Democratic and Labour
Party Leader John Hume (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
John Hume

Notetakers: Lyle Harrison, Mariana
Papadimitriou, Jeff Rathke, Bonnie Glick
and Lawrence Butler

DATE, TIME July 1, 1998, 7:30 - 7:35 a.m. EDT
AND PLACE: Shanghai, China

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

John Hume: I'm in good form, we had a good result. (U)

The President: You sure as hell did, you did great. (U)

John Hume: Yes, we got the highest vote ever for our party.
(U)

The President: And there was some concern that you might not
because of all the work you did to bring in Sinn Fein, but they
got some nice votes too. (U)

John Hume: Yes they did. In fact, the overall vote on both
sides went up, ours and theirs. (U)

The President: I liked it, I thought it was good. Are you
going to take the Deputy First Minister job today? (S)

John Hume: That's coming up this afternoon. I'm not going to
take it, but I'm going to nominate one of my colleagues. I'm
overworked, you see. I'm in the European Parliament as well;
it's overloading and I'm having a bit of health problems because
of overwork. So I've decided to nominate one of my colleagues.
No one knows this yet. (S)

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The President: Do you think it will be ok? Do you think he'll do all right? (C)

John Hume: Oh yes. I'll still be heavily involved as leader of the party because we will have four representatives of the party in the new government, and the unionists will have the same. (C)

The President: What are we going to do about the parade Sunday? (C)

John Hume: That's a problem I'll be discussing it with David Trimble this afternoon. He is under a lot of pressure over it, you know. (C)

The President: I know and he's worried. I think he wants a compromise and he thinks Gerry Adams can get it for him. He thinks the Irish government is amenable to it -- with some compromise where the residents agree to let them take the old route, and the marchers endure the protests as part of... (C)

John Hume: That is a very dangerous county. If the march took place, tensions would be quite impossible, you know. I was hoping to meet privately; I suggested to meet privately and talk to the Orange Order directly. I had a proposal that I thought could have been helpful, but they didn't arrange it. I'm still willing to talk. I'd make the declaration that everybody has the right and they exercise rights and responsibility. The Orange Order recognizes that march opponents oppose it because it is perceived as triumphalist. The Orange Order would exercise their right and say, "this year we won't march, to prove we are not triumphalist, but we'll march next year". That was the idea, but then the Parades Commission banned the march; that made it difficult for me. I'm going to talk to Trimble today to see what we can do to help. (C)

The President: Well, if you think there is anything I can do to help, let me know. We'll be glad to do it -- this is the first big test for you and the common policy ought to be... (C)

John Hume: We're doing our best, thanks for your offer. And well done in China. (U)

The President: Thank you, it's coming along ok. (U)

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John Hume: You've gotten marvelous coverage out here in this part of the world anyway. (U)

The President: Thanks, I'm glad I came, it's a great thing. You take care now. (U)

John Hume: Ok, and listen, thanks again for everything. (U)

The President: Alright, thanks John. Goodbye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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