

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED
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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Irish Prime Minister Bertie
Ahern (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Prime Minister Ahern

Notetakers: Larry Wright, Bonnie Glick,
Tom Crowell, David Higgins, Jim Smith and
Lawrence Butler

DATE, TIME April 7, 1998, 9:49 - 9:52 a.m. EST
AND PLACE: Air Force One

The President: Bertie? (U)

Prime Minister Ahern: How are you? (U)

The President: I am alright. I just called to say that I'm
sorry about your mother's death. (U)

Prime Minister Ahern: I appreciate that a lot. (U)

The President: She would be very proud of you. (U)

Prime Minister Ahern: Thank you very much. How are you
keeping? (U)

The President: I'm fine. I talked to Tony Blair on Sunday
about the marathon meeting. How is Mitchell's paper going down?
(C)

Prime Minister Ahern: I think fairly good. Sinn Fein has made
some points that aren't too bad, but Trimble has been fairly
difficult all morning. I've been talking to him and Tony is
going to meet him tonight in Belfast. I hope to go to Belfast

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Classified by: Glyn T. Davies
Reason: 1.5(b,d)
Declassify On: 4/10/08

tomorrow, but the most negative person at the moment is Trimble.
(C)

The President: Yes, the press is reporting that. Is there anything I can do? (C)

Prime Minister Ahern: Not yet. Trimble wants some language clarified. Some issues are more fundamental. I just think we need to narrow it down to see where he is really at. When we get a handle on that, we'll let your office know. (C)

The President: I will be available as soon as you need me. You are doing very good work. (C)

Prime Minister Ahern: We'll do our very best, Mr. President, over the next few days. Unless Trimble is very disagreeable, the text is basically agreed between Tony Blair and me. It's a question of how difficult he gets. Let's see if we can narrow it down from a dozen to a few issues. (C)

The President: Well, I'll be watching and waiting. (C)

Prime Minister Ahern: We'll keep in touch. You had a very successful trip over the past ten days. (U)

The President: Yes, it was great. Have you ever been to Africa? (U)

Prime Minister Ahern: No. I've never been there, but it was on television here all the time. I watched all your moves. It was very successful for you. (U)

The President: It was quite wonderful. (U)

Prime Minister Ahern: Listen, we'll keep in touch over the next few days. I appreciate your remembering my mam. (U)

The President: Thanks, Bertie. (U)

Prime Minister Ahern: Bye (U)

The President: Bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --