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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

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

PARTICIPANTS: The President
John Hume

Notetakers: Patrick O'Shaughnessy, Cindy
Lawrence, Joel Schrader, David Higgins,
James Smith and Lawrence Butler

DATE, TIME April 10, 1998, 11:51 - 11:55 a.m. EDT
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: John? How are you doing? (U)

Mr. Hume: We had a little bit of a glitch, as you may know, on
decommissioning. It's been a very difficult day here. Nothing
is happening. (C)

The President: Let me tell you what I know. I've talked to
Trimble, Blair and Bertie, and I wanted to call you. Part of
this on Trimble's part may be legitimate, but part may be that
yesterday was so much about Gerry that he wants a little today.
Hell, no one got any sleep, so maybe there's not much balance of
thought. After talking to Tony, he asked me to call you and
Bertie. (C)

Trimble is concerned that the provision as it now sits, if there
is misconduct and no decommissioning, the Assembly can do
something. But it requires cross-party support, but he doesn't
believe you would support that. I think you would if there is
violence and no active decommissioning. Tony wanted to send a
side letter that says, if measures in the agreement prove
ineffective, that is if there is no progress on decommissioning
and something bad happens, then he would support stronger
measures. (C)

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Classified by: Glyn T. Davies
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Let me tell you what I think he's saying: He's not saying it's a Strand 1 issue and the British parliament would act, this would be in a Northern Ireland context. I think it is a BS letter, but it may give Trimble enough cover to do a deal. (S)

Mr. Hume: Apparently, it has worked because we have just heard he said he is coming to the plenary session. George has called. I'm rushing there myself. (S)

The President: Tony wanted me to make sure you would not object. (S)

Mr. Hume: I spoke to Tony. Thanks for all your help. (S)

The President: You're a great man. Go there and claim your moment. (S)

Mr. Hume: Thanks a million, goodbye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --