

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED
PER E.O. 13526
2014-0375-M (1.04)
KBM 7/31/2019

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

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

PARTICIPANTS: The President
John Hume, leader of the SDLP

Notetakers: Peter Huggins, Anthony
Campanella, Robert Ford, Karen Harris and
Lawrence Butler

DATE, TIME April 10, 1998, 1:53 - 2:00 a.m. EDT
AND PLACE: The Residence

The President: Hello, John. (U)

Mr. Hume: Hello, President. (U)

The President: Have you been to bed? (U)

Mr. Hume: I have been up all night. (U)

The President: Me too. But it's not so late where I am. It is
only two in the morning here. (U)

Mr. Hume: Thank you very much for calling and all your concern.
I talked to Tony, Bertie, and Gerry. We are very close to
getting a deal. (C)

The President: Thanks for all that you have done. None of us
would be here without you. (C)

Mr. Hume: Well, listen, thanks a million for the support. Not
only was it positive but it was totally essential. It was very
encouraging to the people on the ground. We, myself and my
party, had talks with the unionists last night and reached an
agreement. George Mitchell is putting it all together now and
will present it soon. (C)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classified by: Glyn T. Davies

Reason: 1.5(b,d)

Declassify On: 4/17/08

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

The President: I will stay up all night if I have to. I can sleep over my book. (C)

Mr. Hume: I am going to need sleep after all of this. (C)

The President: I do too. I talked to Tony and Gerry and argued the prisoners issue. (C)

Mr. Hume: I spoke to both of them about it. (C)

The President: I called Gerry and said, look we can't ask him to do this unless he knows you're all for it. I told him you can't ask the man to stick his neck out. Hell, I don't know if I did any good. There's got to be a way to do this. (C)

Mr. Hume: I think that was excellent to say that. If he does support it, and people endorse it in the referendum, it will transform the whole atmosphere. We must leave the past behind and build a new future. Thanks very much for your interest and your calls. I talked to Jim Steinberg a couple of days ago. We agreed to work both sides together on the economic front. Continued U.S. assistance will be very valuable. (C)

The President: I will do whatever you want me to do, and on the economic front. (C)

Mr. Hume: We are pretty close. We are getting the documentation together; in a few hours it will be good news all over the world. (C)

The President: Well, I tell you I hope that you get a good night's sleep. You must feel very proud. (C)

Mr. Hume: That will be impossible. Things should be settling down in a few hours. Thanks a million again, Bill. (C)

The President: I will do whatever I can to make this work. (C)

Mr. Hume: I will do my best. I am very pleased. It's been a very long hard road as you know. Remember the day you came to my city? Remember I sent you the paper? The banner headline said, "The Town Bill Loved So Much." It's a take off on a song that a good friend of mine Phil Coulter wrote. We are hoping you can come and visit my city again. (C)

The President: Yeah, I loved it. I love that song. When will the referendum be held? (C)

Mr. Hume: That's right. On May 22. (C)

The President: Good. That will be right after Birmingham. (C)

Mr. Hume: It will be great to have you here. (C)

The President: Damn near too good to be true. But, I can't believe it will be hung up on the prisoner issue. But, I think that it will get through. (C)

Mr. Hume: Oh, I do. Very much so. I spoke to Gerry and Tony. In fact, Blair said that your call to him strengthened him to continue. (C)

The President: He admitted that Blair was honest and he will do what is right. There is a lot of feeling out there that the time has come. (C)

Mr. Hume: No, no he can't walk away. In fact, Blair has put our problem at the top of his agenda in a way no other prime minister has been able to do. The fact that we have the two prime ministers here, working together, using all the resources of the governments' to promote the agreement is very valuable. (C)

The President: I just think in a few hours you can look forward to celebrating. You have a lot to celebrate. (U)

Mr. Hume: We will do it and be thinking of you. Thanks, bye. (U)

The President: Thanks. Goodnight. (U)

-- End of Conversation --