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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED
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KSH 7/31/2019

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Ulster Unionist Party Leader
David Trimble (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
David Trimble

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

DATE, TIME July 1, 1998, 7:22 - 7:28 a.m. EDT
AND PLACE: Shanghai, China

The President: David? (U)

Mr. Trimble: Yes, it is me. (U)

The President: How are you? (U)

Mr. Trimble: It could be worse, but as they say, at least the
sun is shining. (U)

The President: Have you been elected yet? (U)

Mr. Trimble: No, they haven't started and won't start until
this afternoon; it's 12:25 and we start at 2. I don't know how
this afternoon will go, the whole Drumcree business is
overshadowing everything. (U)

The President: What would be the best resolution there? (U)

Mr. Trimble: It would have to be in the short term, because a
long term solution is not in sight. But in the short term, it
would be a dignified procession and a dignified protest with no
violence. (U)

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The President: But they would get to go on the route they want? (C)

Mr. Trimble: Yeah, if the (nationalists) want to mark their displeasure by having a dignified protest, that's fine. Each side will preserve its position. There is some support among the nationalists as well, and the Irish government is doing what it can to help. (C)

The President: What can I do to help? (C)

Mr. Trimble: If you could speak to Gerry Adams, because he can resolve the matter almost at will, that would be very helpful. We are also asking John Hume to act as a mediator on the matter. (C)

The President: That would be very helpful. Some of these guys are so happy they won that Parades Commission decision, but are harder than Adams. We will do what we can. (C)

I just wanted to check in with you. I was thrilled by the election and it ended up very well with you. After you said you wouldn't have won a Westminster election. (C)

Mr. Trimble: Well, mind you, if it had been a Westminster election, my majority would have been 300. Unionist anti-votes were spread among three different parties, and the whole thing was a "skin of the teeth" operation. (C)

The President: I think you're well on the way. Will you be able to hold the right coalition together? (C)

Mr. Trimble: Yes, I think so. I've thought we were going to do it at each stage, but the margins are always narrower than I'd like. (C)

The President: Is John Hume going to be the deputy minister? (C)

Mr. Trimble: We are waiting to hear from the SDLP, they are in conclave. I very much hope it will be John, not that there is any problem with Seamus. I just think it looks better with the two leaders. (C)

The President: I agree with that. I've heard rumblings that people say he shouldn't get involved in day-to-day business, but that's what he's been working on for all these years. You can't

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just say you don't want to be there to do all the hard work.
(C)

Mr. Trimble: Oh, no. That's what people said to me. It sends the wrong signal showing that you're not committed to the institutions. (C)

The President: I'll see what I can do with this Drumcree business. I want you to know I'll do what I can this afternoon. I just wanted to call and tell you I was thinking about you today. (C)

Mr. Trimble: As always, your interest is very much appreciated.
(C)

The President: Well, we will nose around on this side and see what we can do. (C)

Mr. Trimble: Thank you very much. Cheers. (U)

The President: Bye bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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