

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE  
INTERAGENCY SECURITY CLASSIFICATION APPEALS PANEL,  
E.O. 13526, SECTION 5.3(b)(3)

ISCAP APPEAL NO. 2013-090, document no. 6  
DECLASSIFICATION DATE: October 14, 2015

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with British Prime Minister Tony Blair (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
Prime Minister, Tony Blair

Notetakers: Doug Mueller, Wylma Robinson,  
Pat O'Shaughnessy, Bonnie Glick

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: July 27, 1997, 12:41 - 1:02 p.m. EDT  
Private Residence, Los Angeles, California

The President: Tony? (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Hi, Bill. How are you? (U)

The President: Very well, indeed. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: I am sitting here outside Chequers having a cup of tea with a friend of yours, Steven Spielberg. (U)

The President: Steven Spielberg? You are? You tell Mr. Spielberg that you may be drinking tea with him, but I am here on the beach in Santa Monica having coffee with Ron Burkle, which shows California has more influence than either the British or the U.S. Government. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: You are? (U)

The President: Yes. I am looking at people skateboarding at the beautiful beaches of Santa Monica. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: You lucky man. This is your vacation, then? (U)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Reason: 1.5(b)

Declassify On: 7/28/07

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The President: No, no. I am out here working, but it is a Sunday morning and you wanted to talk. And Ron Burkle is a friend of mine who bought a house very close to the hotel where I was last night. I interrupted coffee to speak with you. Congratulations again on the ceasefire. I think we have a chance now. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Yes, we have a chance now. I just wanted to fill you in on that.

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(b)(d)

The President: Is there anything we can do to help you with Trimble? Probably not. ~~let~~

Prime Minister Blair:

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(b)(d)

The President: You know that is a well I can only go back to one more time. I am certainly willing to try to do that though. ~~let~~

Prime Minister Blair:

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(b)(d)

The President: I could try to come on over to see you or something. ~~let~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

3

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Prime Minister Blair: What I think, the reason why I think there is some hope in the situation is that the ordinary people in Northern Ireland are desperate for peace. ~~let~~

The President: Oh God yes. This is the place in the world where there is the largest disconnect between the leaders and what the ordinary people want. ~~let~~

Prime Minister Blair:

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(b)(d)

The President: And we will do that. I got your letter on the Middle East and I basically agree with the letter.

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)

And I am really glad you are going to become EU president in January because my sense is that we can get some grudging progress for

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

the rest of the year, and if there is going to be a breakthrough, then we will need everyone's help to close next year. I don't think the present situation can be maintained.

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)

(e)

Prime Minister Blair:

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(b)(d)

The President: Well, first of all, a flashpoint or meltdown point.

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)

Prime Minister Blair: That's right. (e)

The President:

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)

I'll give you an example, here you are trying to do this in Northern Ireland and one day the IRA has the whole thing in its power and the next day, Paisley does.

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)

That may be something you could have the Europeans examine -- because it is very important -- whether you want to provide economic assistance to Jordan. With parliamentary elections coming, we would be in a tough situation without any real power if the people he is backing, who have stable relations with Israel, lose ground because of economic difficulties. (S)

Prime Minister Blair:

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(b)(d)

The President: One of the things that would help is to raise the economic fortune of the Palestinians.

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)

(S)

Prime Minister Blair: Hello? You are getting a bit faint there. (U)

The President: I know that you can't come to us on September 9 because of the Scottish devolution and 13-15 doesn't work for

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

6

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
me, but we need to set up some time. We will keep working till we find the time. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: September is really difficult? (U)

The President: Just those two days for me. I think I can work out another time. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: I think it probably is a bit difficult for me because if something starts to go wrong. (U)

The President: How are the English reacting? Is it going down pretty well? ~~(U)~~

Prime Minister Blair: It is okay for the minute.

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(b)(d)

The President: Are most of the Scots in the Westminster parliament in your party? ~~(U)~~

Prime Minister Blair: We are going to give up a few seats. ~~(U)~~

The President: You may have some to spare now, but you can never tell what you'll need in five years.

~~(U)~~  
Prime Minister Blair: However, it has not always been like this in Scotland. In the 50's it was mostly Tory. What I am trying to do is build new bases of support, one of the most difficult things to do. There are two referendums, one in Scotland and one in Wales. ~~(U)~~

The President: So you stay there and handle it. Your preference is to get the visit done in the month of September. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: I think so. (U)

The President: That is my strong preference. I will talk to my people and we'll get it done. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Let us do that, Bill, and I also had a note from Hillary about the other thing we talked about and we will work on that. You have a good time in Santa Monica. (U)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

7

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The President: Tell Steven Spielberg I hate coming all the way out here and not get to see him because he is hanging out in Chequers. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: I will certainly. (U)

The President: I always suspected that beneath that ruffled, intellectual demeanor was a real Tory aristocrat working. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: He is out here making a movie. (U)

The President: I know. I told you before that he really wants to help rebuild the movie industry in Great Britain because he is so grateful for its influence. He got a lot of input from early British film makers. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Lots of possibilities here, but also important to them that the U.S. and the British work closely, especially because some of the other countries and some of the stuff from the EU is not very sensible. The French and the Italians have weird rules and prescriptions on film making. It would help if we can get some decent British movies. (U)

The President: You can do it. Tell him I said hello. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: All the best. We'll be in touch. (U)

The President: Bye. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY