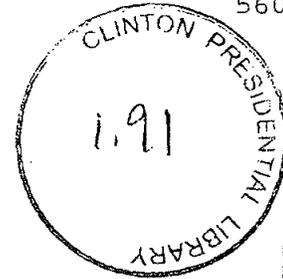


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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with British Prime Minister Blair
(U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Prime Minister Blair

Notetakers: Robin Rickard, Robert Williams,
Brad Mynatt, and Richard Norland.

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: September 5, 2000, 6:46 - 6:53 p.m. EDT
The Residence

The President: Hello, Tony? (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Hi, Bill. (U)

The President: Where are you? Are you here? (U)

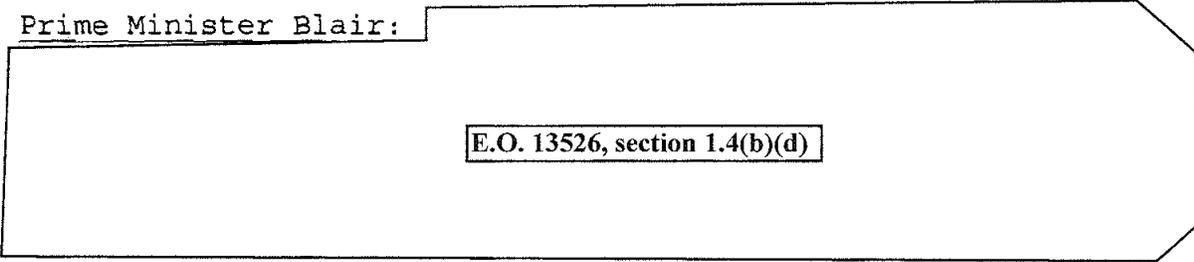
Prime Minister Blair: Yes, I'm just driving in from the airport
now, complete with baby. (U)

The President: Really? (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Yes, Cherie is coming with me and making
a speech in New York at some lawyer thing, so we have to bring
the baby with us. (U)

The President: That's great. I hope I get to see your baby.
Where are you staying? (U)

Prime Minister Blair:



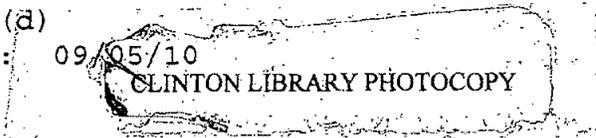
DECLASSIFIED UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE
INTERAGENCY SECURITY CLASSIFICATION APPEALS PANEL,
E.O. 13526, SECTION 5.3(b)(3)
ISCAP APPEAL NO. 2013-090, document no. 89
DECLASSIFICATION DATE: October 14, 2015

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Classified by: Robert Bradtke

Reason: 1.5 (d)

Declassify On: 09/05/10



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

[Redacted]

The President: Here's the problem we've got. First of all, I won't do anything until I see you. I don't want to jam you in public. Our guys tell me that Lott will basically shut down the Senate and not even do China if we don't do something, and now our Foreign Sales Corporation plan was rejected. It is not a political thing with me. I am not running for election, and I don't want to do anything to hurt you, but, on the other hand, I can't take the risk they will shut the Senate down. The real damage will be if they walk away from the China issue. That is my problem. We ought to talk tomorrow. We are going to have dinner tomorrow, right? (e)

Prime Minister Blair: Right. (U)

The President: Why don't we talk a little and see if there is any reasonable prospect. If I could just get either one of these things resolved. They are killing me on the FSC and the other thing. They know, or at least I know, you tried to help us on both of these things. I just can't let them shut the thing down on me. (e)

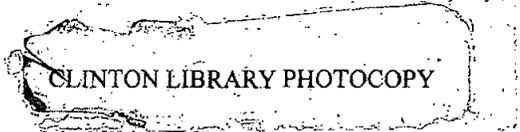
Prime Minister Blair: [Redacted]

The President: There might be. Let me talk to our people. Why don't we talk again tomorrow. (e)

Prime Minister Blair: Okay. [Redacted]

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

The President: The real problem on the banana issue is a feeling over here that there is an Anglo-Irish company that is the main beneficiary of not resolving the issue. That is adding to the heat. But the issue isn't a political one for me. We were able to avoid putting cashmere on the list last time. You had those elections in Scotland, and I took a lot of crap the last time. It is not a political thing with me, it's just that I've got to do business with these people for the next six weeks. I can't run the risk of having this blamed on me or being accused of acting on the basis of a personal relationship, and I can't do anything to hurt Al. I think he is going to win, but it is tight as a tick. (e)



Prime Minister Blair:
(gap) (U)

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

The President: So when we tried to run it by them that you were trying to help us, they said how can that be, this Anglo-Irish company is the main beneficiary? Normally I do what I want but Congress has a big oar in the water. (gap) Why don't you talk to your folks, and I'll talk to you tomorrow. Maybe it will be alright to call Lott, what the hell. This has been dragging on so long. (gap) about as long as I can, and I can't run the risk they would use that as a pretext against something as profoundly important as China. (e)

Prime Minister Blair: Okay,

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

The President: I think that is quite possible. I know the heat they are getting, and I know where it is coming from. But it might be helpful, if we could have any indication we could get that or the FSC thing resolved. Both are hanging out there feeding on each other. And, in the Senate, it is not totally confined to the Republicans either. (e)

Prime Minister Blair: I totally understand, okay. (e)

The President: Okay, so I get to see your baby? Alright, I will see you tomorrow. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Alright, Bill, all the best. (U)

-- End of Conversation --