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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: Bonnie Glick, Michael Manning,  
Miles Murphy and Lawrence Butler

DATE, TIME: June 6, 1999, 12:32 - 12:42 p.m. EDT  
AND PLACE: Camp David, Maryland

The President: Hi, Tony. How are you? (U)

Prime Minister Blair: I'm anxious until this thing is properly tied down. (U)

The President: This is exactly what I was afraid of. A bombing pause and then they would try to steal the peace now that we have won the war. The position is that the Russians and Chinese won't let a Security Council Resolution go through until there is a bombing pause, but we won't pause unless there is clear evidence of withdrawal. Funny, but I understand the Serb position; they don't want a vacuum so when their withdrawal starts, they want us to come in. Yesterday, our guys said "you begin withdrawal, we will pause and try for one day to get a Security Council Resolution. If the Chinese and Russians won't, we'll get a NATO accord and move in immediately." (S)

That was our position yesterday. Today, the Serbs came back and said they couldn't live with this. They want a Security Council Resolution that links the authority to deploy and the authority to run the country under the UN; if there is a delay, we'll return to our pre-conflict force levels before we invaded until the Security Council works it out. That's a nightmare and we can't let that happen. They're trying to steal the peace after we won the conflict. I know you agree with that. I am going to

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call D'Alema. I don't know what to do except tell our guys to hang tough. Ahtisaari delayed his China trip. (S)

Prime Minister Blair: I just talked to Ahtisaari. (S)

The President: What did he say? (S)

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Prime Minister Blair: [redacted]

The President: I'm not against that. (S)

Prime Minister Blair: I said I wanted to think about that and talk to you. If we ask him, he would go do that tonight. [redacted]

The President: Good for him. (S)

Prime Minister Blair: [redacted]

The President: Yes. (S)

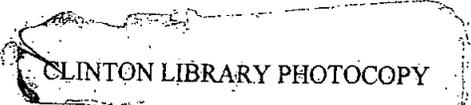
E.O. 13526, section 1.4(b)(d)

Prime Minister Blair: What do we lose? My guy down there, Michael Jackson, is a good bloke, but he is a general not a negotiator. (S)

The President: I think Ahtisaari made a good impression on Milosevic. I haven't talked to Sandy, Madeleine or anyone about him going down. But I worry about this thing dragging on. I'm not worried about sending a signal; we need to get this going while the iron is hot. (S)

Prime Minister Blair: Absolutely, I'm in total agreement on that. (S)

The President: You talk to your guys. I'll talk to mine. (S)



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

Prime Minister Blair: I told Martti I'd get back to him in an hour. If we want to have a chat to our folks and have them chat..

The President: I agree. I've been waiting for this. I've been nervous as hell all day. We can't let him take the peace away from us.

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)

Prime Minister Blair: I agree 100 percent.

The President: We owe it to these people (the Kosovars), and don't forget that they (the Serbs) are asking us to eat a hell of a lot of shit. Now that they want us to sweep out Thaqi and the KLA and give this Authority five years to work, our crowd is going to be at some physical risk too. We have to think down the road here. Look at Bosnia four years later. We're taking on a lot of water here. If we can spring some money from the IMF and the World Bank... but there are all kinds of hurdles with that. Well, you and I are in the same place. We can't let our folks get weak on this. If the Europeans stay hitched on this, we should be okay in a day or two. I might give Chretien a call too. He has a lot of friends over there in Europe. I know he agrees with us. We may have to do some hand holding on this. (S)

Prime Minister Blair: I agree.

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

The President: I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll call Sandy now and talk to our guys and then I'll try to call D'Alema, and decide who else I should call. If there is any other problem, I'll be available. It's sunny here. I may go out, but I'll have phones with me. (S)

Prime Minister Blair: I have some people I really trust out there at the negotiations. Okay, our people will be in touch.

~~(S)~~

The President: If this thing is going to be drug out for another 72 hours or so, we may also need a story about how our planning is continuing. We have to put a squeeze on and we can't let them get the peace. Okay, we have a vigorous agreement going here, so we don't need to waste time. I'll talk to Sandy and we'll be in touch. Goodbye. ~~(S)~~

Prime Minister Blair: Goodbye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --