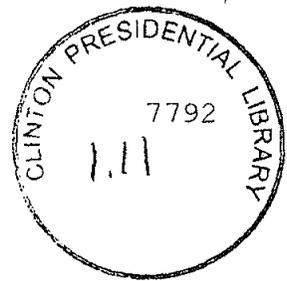


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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

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

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Prime Minister Blair

Notetakers: Lyle Harrison, J. Laurence Wright II, Jeff Rathke, Anthony Campanella, Lawrence Butler

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: November 15, 1997, 12:40-12:50 p.m. EST
Air Force One, en route Las Vegas to Sacramento

The President: Hello? Hello? We still don't have a good connection. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Hello? (U)

The President: Tony, can you hear me? I'm so sorry about the last time. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: No problem. (U)

The President: I am on the airplane and usually it works, but sometimes it doesn't. Thank you for the letter you sent me earlier this week. I want to talk through what I am thinking about this issue.

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)

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E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)

We all see this looking back through the prism of the Gulf War, but I want to see this looking forward through the prism of the future. My goal in this and my definition of victory, is that this is not a macho contest of getting him to back down, but to reestablish the inspections regime, which I think was a smashing success. ~~(e)~~

Prime Minister Blair: Bill, I am in total agreement with everything you said. I want you to know we will stick with you throughout this.

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

The President: I think this is very important. Jacques Chirac is in Vietnam right now, and I am trying to call him. I will talk to Yeltsin and several others over the next two days. If there is anything you can do to promote unity among the allies, I would appreciate it. I understand their position and the popular sympathy in the Middle East for the people of Iraq. I

think we need to get people in your country, in France, and elsewhere, to see what UNSCOM has destroyed. They need to see how successful the program of eliminating weapons of mass destruction has been. But there is one thing going on in our country and also in the UN, and that is that the only time Iraq gets attention is when Saddam creates a crisis. If people knew how many weapons UNSCOM inspectors have exposed, they would understand why this is so important. (c)

Prime Minister Blair:

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

The President: We may need to talk again several times over the next week, but I won't bother you unless I have to. We will have to work together on this. (c)

Prime Minister Blair: Yes, absolutely right. And the more that can be done to publicize the work that UNSCOM has done over the last six years, the better. (c)

The President: Did you see Netanyahu in London? (c)

Prime Minister Blair: Yes, I did.

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

The President: I know what you mean.

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)

Prime Minister Blair:

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

I will send you a full report of the meetings, I'm not sure we may have already. Let's keep in touch over the weekend. (c)

The President: Thank you for the meeting and the time you spent with Hillary. She just loved it. It looked like it was very successful. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Yes, it was great. She was in fantastic form. All right then, all the best. (U)

The President: Okay, I will talk to you later. Bye-bye. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Goodbye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --