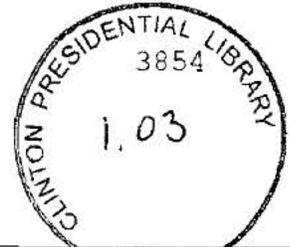


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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

ISCAP APPEAL NO. 2013-090, document no. 3
DECLASSIFICATION DATE: October 14, 2015

SUBJECT: Restricted Meeting with British Prime
Minister Tony Blair (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
William Crowe, Ambassador to the UK
Samuel R. Berger, Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs
Mary Ann Peters, Director for European
Affairs, National Security Council
(Notetaker)

Anthony Blair, Prime Minister
Sir John Kerr, Ambassador to the U.S.
John Holmes, Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
Jonathan Powell, Chief of Staff to the
Prime Minister

DATE, TIME May 29, 1997, 12:00-12:30 p.m.
AND PLACE: No. 10 Downing Street, London

Prime Minister Blair: Should we work through our cards? (U)

The President: If you see me with all the cards they give me,
you know it is going to be a long meeting because I have not done
my homework. If I do it, I reduce it to this one card. (U)

With regard to Northern Ireland, I would like to tell you that
when it comes time that you think it would be helpful for us to
say something about a cease-fire or decommissioning, let me know.
We may have to wait for the Irish election. I have some pull and
can call in chits; just let me know. ~~(U)~~

Prime Minister Blair:

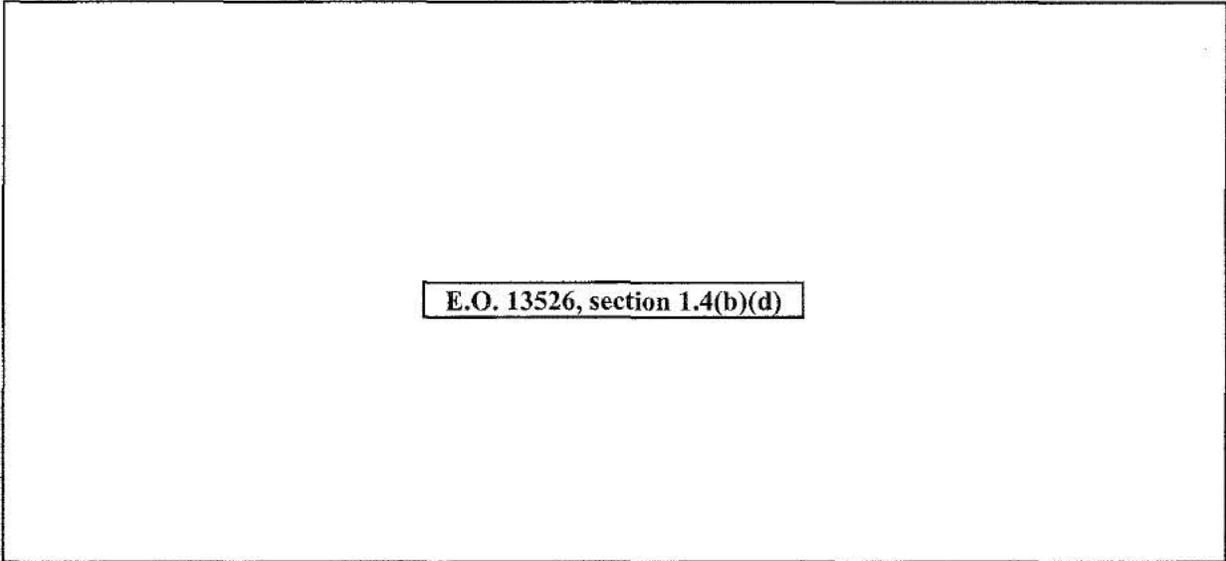
E.O. 13526, section 1.4(b)(d)

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Reason: 1.5(b)

Declassify On: 6/05/07

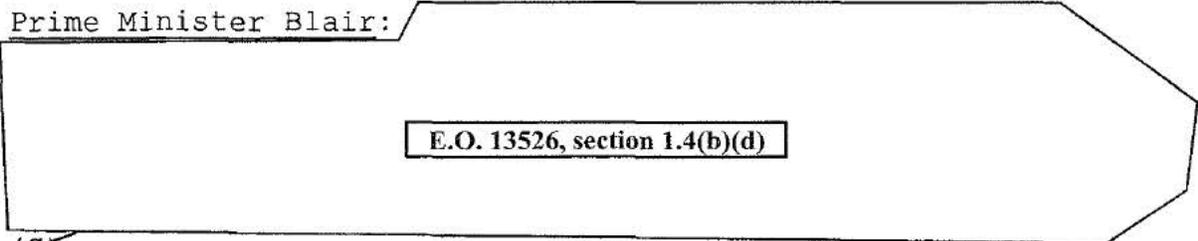
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E.O. 13526, section 1.4(b)(d)

The President: I will think about the parade problem. The conflict reminds me of the Middle East. Do you have a resolution in mind? ~~(S)~~

Prime Minister Blair:



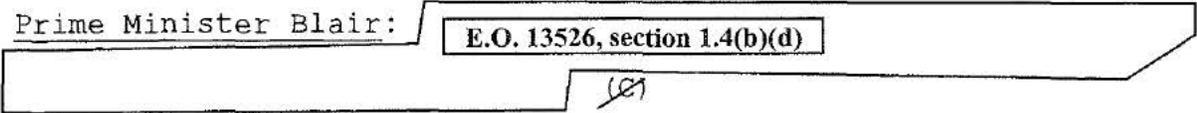
E.O. 13526, section 1.4(b)(d)

~~(S)~~
The President: One problem is that the people are farther along than the leaders. For people like Sinn Fein and Ian Paisley, the conflict is their whole life. ~~(S)~~

Ambassador Crowe: At Drumcree, however, all those peace-loving people went indoors and shut their blinds. (U)

The President: Those were the same people in the streets cheering us -- they need leadership. ~~(S)~~

Prime Minister Blair:



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

The President: Some of my rich yuppie friends cancelled trips to Belfast to play golf. ~~(S)~~

Ambassador Crowe: The President has been strongly supportive of investment in Northern Ireland. ~~(S)~~

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The President: You need a place for the politicians to go to be relevant. They have to have a life and an identity other than their ability to stop the process. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)

[REDACTED] You've got it right with a guarantee of some connection to Ireland. I have listened to them talk and I think that if there were no political leaders, we could get the people to agree. (c)

Mr. Holmes: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] E.O. 13526, section 1.4(b)(d)

The President: Sinn Fein needs to be on board with the substance of the resolution, whatever the details of the relationship to Ireland. What is the role for the DUP and Paisley? If we leave the extremes out, they can undermine the solution. I was struck by that when I met Paisley. I didn't get a word in edgewise for 20 minutes, but I didn't care. (c)

Mr. Holmes: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] E.O. 13526, section 1.4(b)(d)

The President: You mean if you give them a meaningful devolved government? (c)

Mr. Berger: We are maintaining contact with the unionists -- I called Trimble recently. (c)

The President: He is impressive. (c)

Ambassador Crowe: But not at Drumcree. And the SDLP needs Sinn Fein in the talks so they cannot criticize the compromises Hume makes. (S)

The President: You know where we are. If there is anything I can do, let me know at the right time. (c)

Mr. Berger: Mo Mowlam was over last week and we had a great meeting. (c)

The President: She is good, great on TV. Her happy face inspires confidence. She seems solid and not full of herself; you don't need another person over there posturing like a peacock. (c)

Prime Minister Blair: I will tell her that. (c)

-- End of Conversation --

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