

~~SECRET~~



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with British Prime Minister Blair  
(U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
Prime Minister Blair

Notetakers: Bob Ford, Sean Tarver, James  
Smith and Lawrence Butler

DATE, TIME: April 1, 1999, 3:54 - 4:04 p.m. EST  
AND PLACE: Oval Office

Prime Minister Blair: Hi, Bill. (U)

The President: Hi and excuse me. How are you doing? Did you  
get any sleep? (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Not yet, but hoping to. God, these  
negotiations are a nightmare, but thanks so much for the help.  
(U)

The President: I hope I did help and Sinn Fein will start  
negotiations. The initial spin on it was okay. ~~let~~

Prime Minister Blair:

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

The President: It looks like we got permission tonight from all  
the NATO guys to do most of what we wanted to do, but I wanted  
to say that I think we need better procedures here. They tell  
me Wes Clark is spending half or more than half his time every  
day trying to schmooze the Allies. There should be a more  
orderly way to pick the targets and vet them.

But I  
don't think we want to be in a position where every day you and  
I have to make six phone calls to ramp things up.

~~SECRET~~

Reason: 1.5(a,b,d)

Declassify On: 4/2/09

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

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. 51  
DECLASSIFICATION DATE: October 14, 2015

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)

[Redacted]

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)

Prime Minister Blair:

[Redacted]

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

The President:

[Redacted]

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)

Prime Minister Blair: No. (S)

The President: A lot of people knew what they were going to be and were preparing for them, so one of our fighter groups had to turn around and come back. (S)

Prime Minister Blair: My God. (S)

The President: That's why we keep this close. I am not accusing anybody, these are just the facts. But the more people that know, you increase exponentially the potential for leaks or intercepted conversations, anything of that kind. So we need to try to keep this closehold. (S)

Prime Minister Blair:

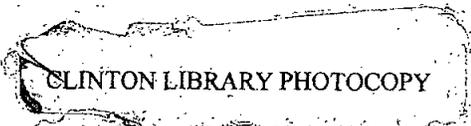
[Redacted]

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

The President:

[Redacted]

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)



Prime Minister Blair:

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

(S)

The President: I will have Sandy follow up with your guys and we will figure out who contacts whom. We'll talk to Solana and get a new procedure approved. We need to approve targets quickly and hit them. We need to be relaxed about this, determined but relaxed. We're not in a panic. (S)

Prime Minister Blair:

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

The President: If it looks like we're afraid someone is going to wimp out on us, we would never get a decent deal. (S)

Prime Minister Blair:

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

The President: We've unsettled him some. We've had some substantial strikes. We're not where we need to be yet, but we need to keep after it. (S)

Prime Minister Blair:

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

The President: Yes. And it would be very well received here; we cannot act like we're bombing timidly and making a plea for peace. That's not a position we can afford to be in. (S)

Prime Minister Blair:

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

The President: That we have to hit them harder. In fact, a couple of senators have come out in favor of ground troops. Though that could be a Trojan Horse. (S)

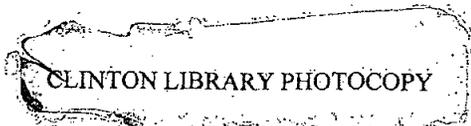
Prime Minister Blair:

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

The President: We'll have our people come up with a strategy for who you and I should call. I will call Schroeder to see if he will agree to a new procedure on target setting. This is too slow; we are encumbered by weather now, but as a practical measure you will have more influence with Europeans than I will.

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)

We can't afford to have Clark spending half his day, every day trying to get approval to do his job rather than doing his job.



E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)

We're on an open line, so I don't want to get into details, but we have gotten in a position now where we can really, with the weather cooperating, do some more things and get some more results. I think it is quite important, and it's an acceptable agreement if we don't have to keep slashing away. We've got to show real strength and impact here. (S)

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

Prime Minister Blair:

The President: I agree. (S)

Prime Minister Blair:

The President: Alright. Thanks. (S)

Prime Minister Blair:

The President: I am happy to do it. It's lasted so long that I may miss it when it's gone. But I doubt it. (S)

Prime Minister Blair:

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

The President: We'll have our people work out strategy. Goodbye. (S)

Prime Minister Blair: Goodbye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --