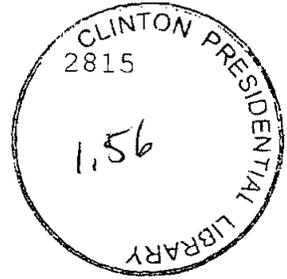


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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Prime Minister Blair (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
Prime Minister Blair

Notetakers: Jenny McGee, Roger Merletti,  
Frank Jarosinski, James Smith,  
Lawrence Butler

DATE, TIME: April 14, 1999, 1:56 - 2:14 p.m. EDT,  
Oval Office

The President: Hello, Tony. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Hi, Bill. This is a secure line,  
fortunately. Go on. ~~(S)~~

The President: Yes. First of all, I didn't mean to take you  
out of a meeting there, but I thought it was important I talk to  
you as soon as possible. Aznar was here last night and he was  
really good, and I know he is there. ~~(S)~~

Wes Clark asked for another 300 airplanes, and we've got these  
Apaches coming in, but the truth is we're just going to have  
more and more planes filling the air and restriking old targets  
or hoping the weather gets better so we can hit tanks and  
soldiers, unless we can get into Phase III targets. We have got  
to make these people start paying a higher price. ~~(S)~~

I was hoping while you're there, you and Aznar could convince  
[redacted] to give Clarke and Solana the authority to strike a wider  
range of targets. That would require hitting national level  
headquarters, military-industrial targets, the TV towers (which  
he has resisted), some of the presidential targets, the power  
plants, the Socialist Party headquarters, which also has a  
radio-TV broadcasting facility there. I really believe we are  
making a mistake not turning the heat up on these guys. ~~(S)~~

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)

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. 54  
DECLASSIFICATION DATE: October 14, 2015

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Reason: 1.5 (a, d)

Declassify on: 4/15/09

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(d)

I have also been urged by our people to look at preventative action against some targets in Montenegro. I know [redacted] doesn't want to hit there, but even [redacted] said there were some things we ought to be hitting. Let me give you an example or two: there are several facilities where we think they are moving in to take their missiles out; in and around the ports in Montenegro; there's one critical bridge we need to take out, before they start moving their military units. So we're quite worried about their ability to use these facilities. There are not a lot of targets and not a lot of risk of civilian damage,

[redacted]

But it's even more important we get to Phase III targets within Serbia. I know there'll be collateral damage and some controversy, but if we want any chance of a solution soon, we have to turn the heat up. (S)

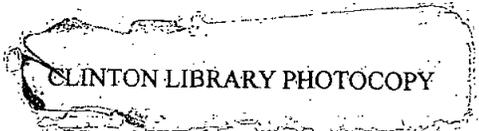
Prime Minister Blair:

[redacted]

[redacted]

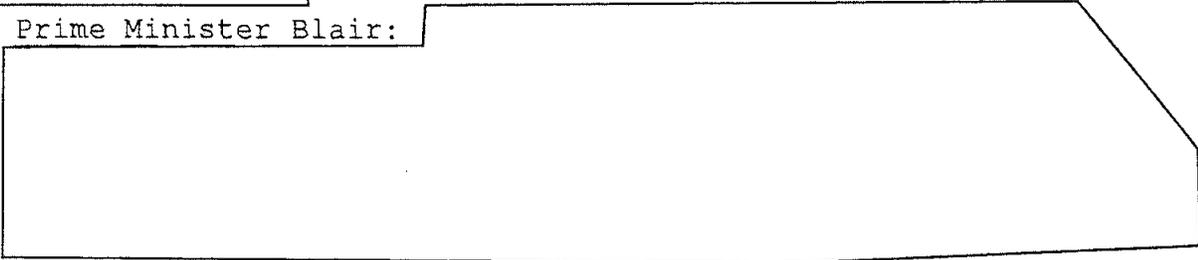
E.O. 13526, section 1.4(b)(d)

The President: That's what I want to do. (S)



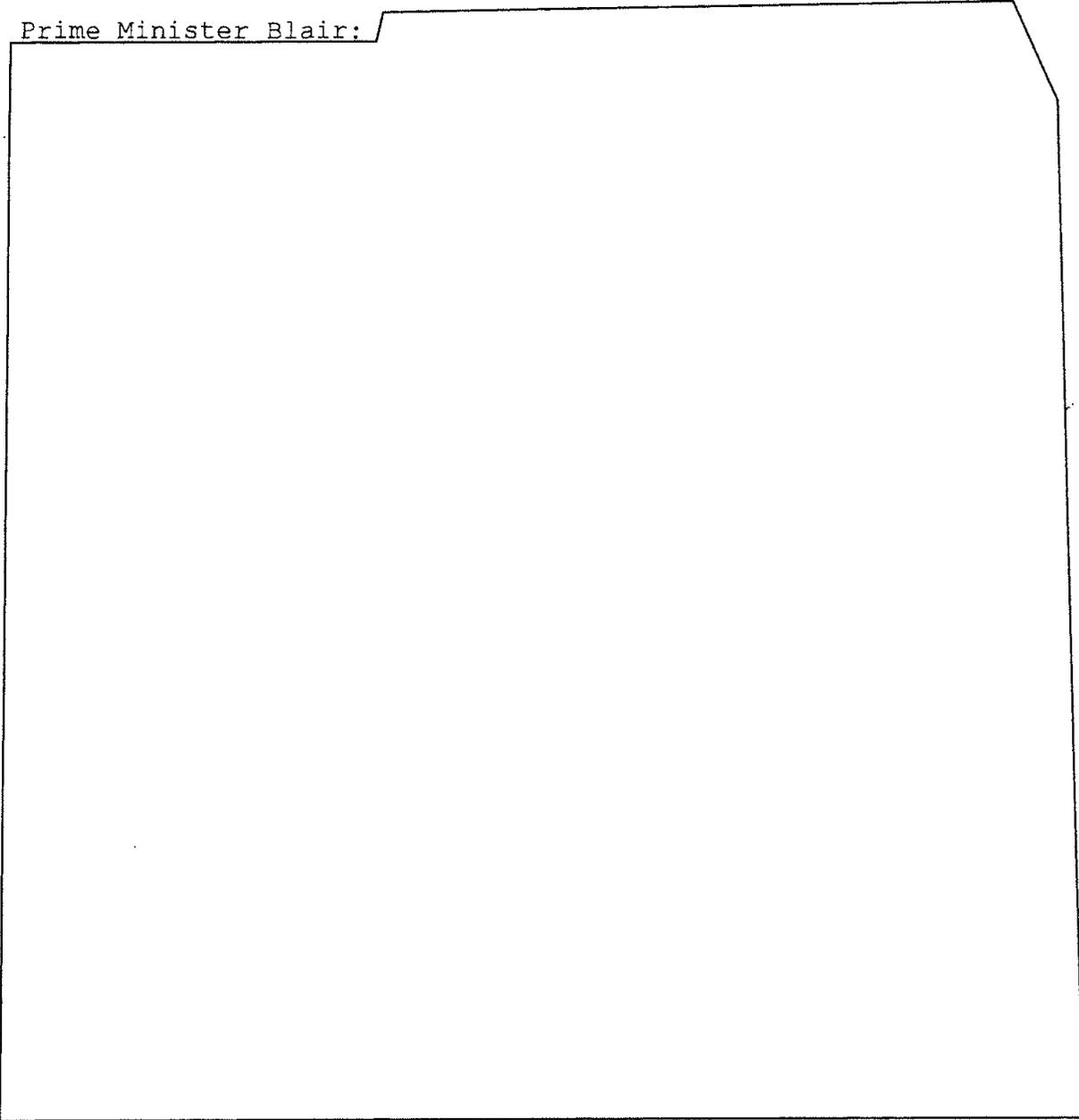
E.O. 13526, section 1.4(b)(d)

Prime Minister Blair:

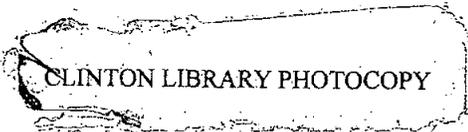


The President: I completely agree. (U)

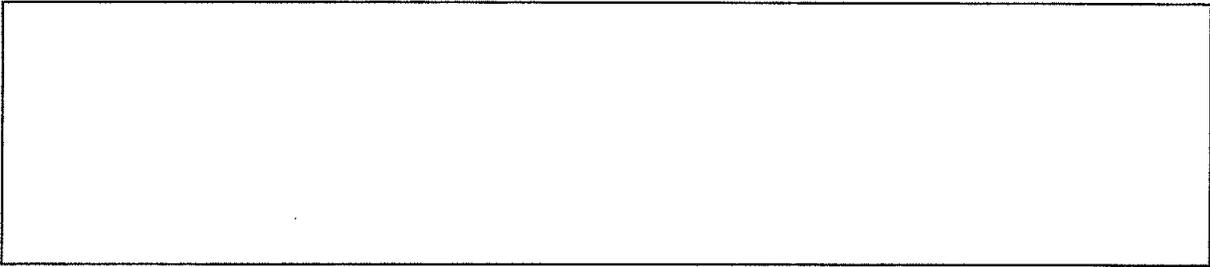
Prime Minister Blair:



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



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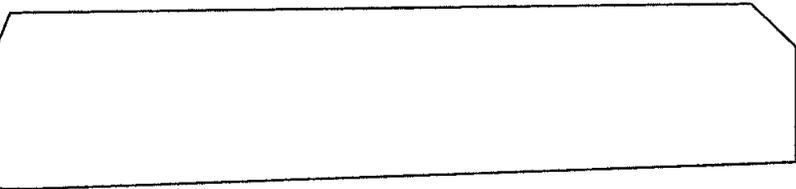
The President: Let's talk about all the points you've made. First of all, we're agreed on targets. On fuel and other things, we are now banning Yugoslav ships from our ports and the export and reexport of goods to Yugoslavia. I hope you can succeed in tightening EU exports, freezing government and private projects and the assets of the leadership. You and I should propose NATO search ships going into Yugoslav ports to make sure there's no arms or fuel. (S)

Prime Minister Blair: Agreed. (U)

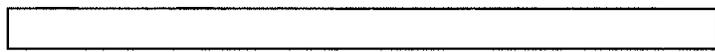
The President: On presentation, Solana is not there, is he? (S)

Prime Minister Blair: 

The President: Do you want to send someone in? I think there would be some resentment if I sent an American over there. Maybe we should talk to Solana and have him ask for more help on presentation? Do you have someone you can deputize? (S)

Prime Minister Blair: 

The President: We've had to start doing a lot more of our briefings, because they are so ineffective. (S)

Prime Minister Blair: 

They start off every day at 3 or 4 o'clock, and the press conference sometimes goes on for an hour or an hour and a half, literally answering all their questions. (S)

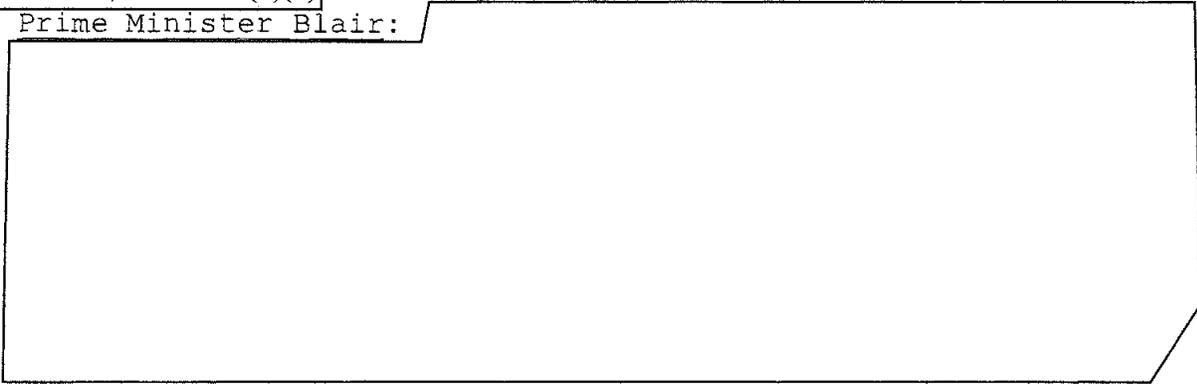
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CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

The President: Shouldn't we talk to Solana personally and get him to...operationally, how do we get this done? What's your suggestion? ~~(S)~~

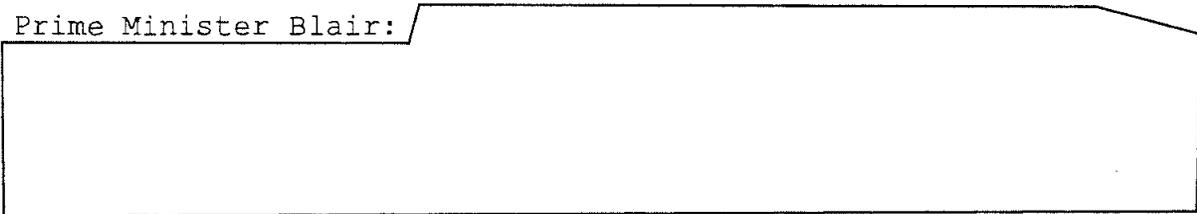
E.O. 13526, section 1.4(b)(d)

Prime Minister Blair:



The President: I would support that strongly, and then he could do the conference call every day, your guy. ~~(S)~~

Prime Minister Blair:



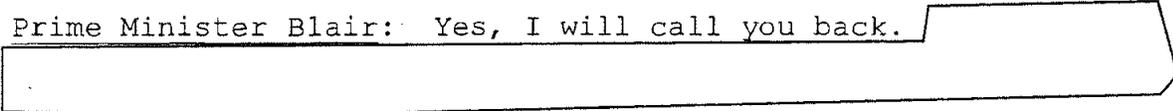
The President: Okay. I am completely agreed. Should we call Solana separately or together. Separately. I will tell him we discussed this, I think your take is right and ask him to work with you on it. ~~(S)~~

Prime Minister Blair: That is great, Bill. (U)

The President: Call me after you talk to Chirac and Schroeder.

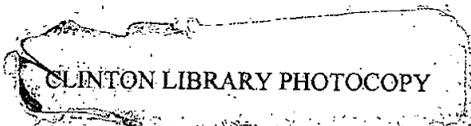
~~(S)~~

Prime Minister Blair: Yes, I will call you back.



The President: That's why I agreed to do this. With all the problems, I figured you wouldn't have 19 elected officials with their asses hanging out to dry. ~~(S)~~

Prime Minister Blair:



The President: You've got a deal. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: Alright, Bill. (U)

The President: And on the economic things, you support them?

~~(C)~~

Prime Minister Blair: Absolutely. One hundred percent. ~~(C)~~

The President: Alright. I will get on it. ~~(C)~~

-- End of Conversation --