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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



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INTERAGENCY SECURITY CLASSIFICATION APPEALS PANEL,  
E.O. 13526, SECTION 5.3(b)(3)

ISCAP APPEAL NO. 2013-090, document no. 71  
DECLASSIFICATION DATE: October 14, 2015

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with British Prime Minister Blair  
(U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
Prime Minister Blair

Notetakers: Ralph Sigler, Liz Rogers,  
Michael Manning, Rob Williams, Joel  
Ehrendreich and Lawrence Butler

DATE, TIME July 12, 1999, 10:01 - 10:14 a.m. EDT  
AND PLACE: Oval Office

Prime Minister Blair: Hi, Bill, how are you? (U)

The President: Hi, Tony, I'm fine. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: I keep seeing these great pictures over here of you in the press from your trip. You are doing some great sweeping tours. (U)

The President: I've been going through the poorest parts of America. People have got to realize that not everyone here is rich. (U)

Prime Minister Blair: It is really effective campaigning if I can say so. (U)

The President: I don't know exactly what kind of financing you do to encourage British investment. I've gotten quite a bit of steam behind the idea of offering the same incentives to invest in poor -- really poor -- neighborhoods that I've given them to invest in developing economies overseas. So it turns around the argument that people gripe about giving incentives for overseas but not giving them the same incentives to invest in our own

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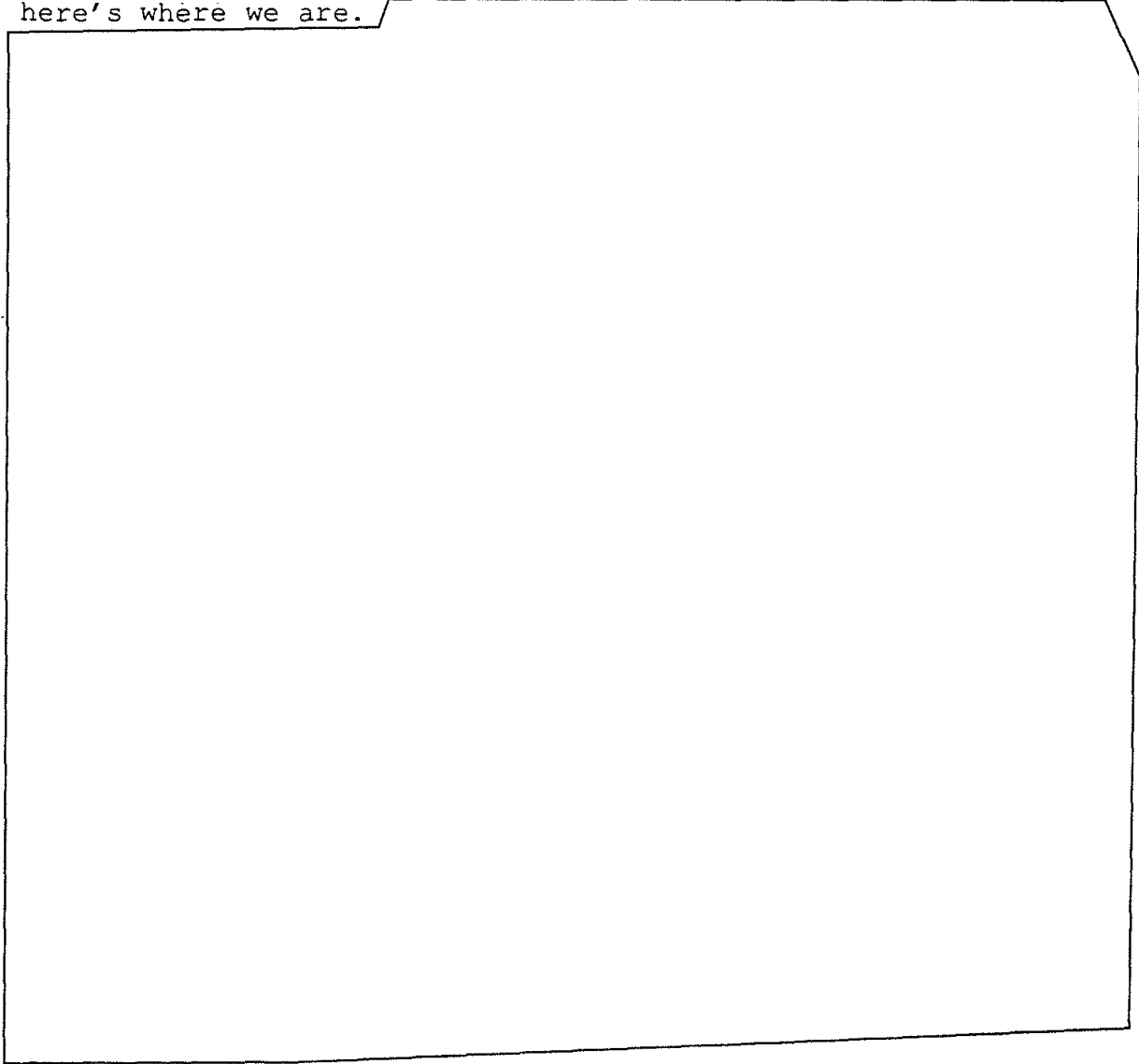
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rural and poor areas and Indian reservations. It's getting a pretty good reaction. (U)

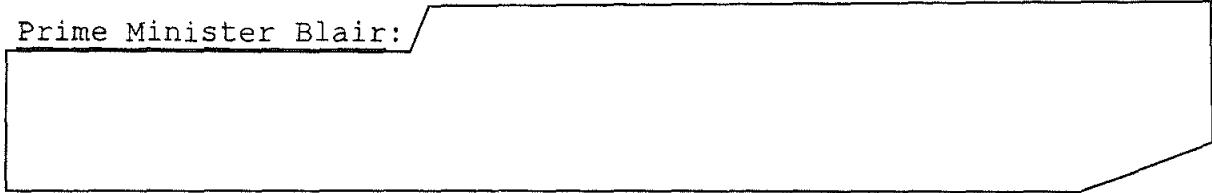
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Prime Minister Blair: Interesting. Now, on the Irish issue -- here's where we are.

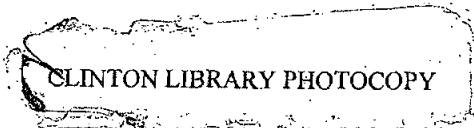


The President: Yes, I agree. *let*

Prime Minister Blair:

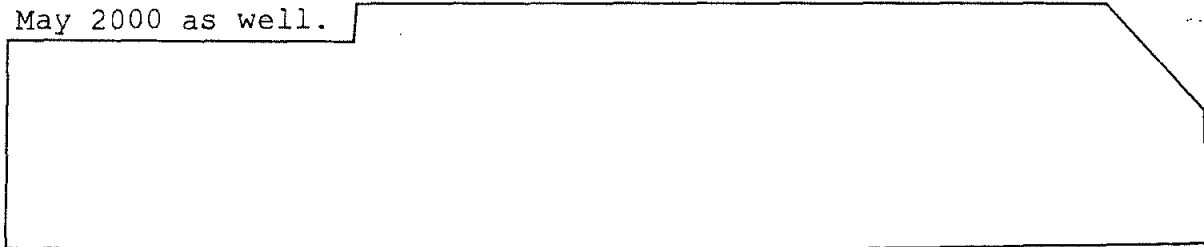


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The President: What does the Good Friday Accord say on the timing of prisoner releases? (C)

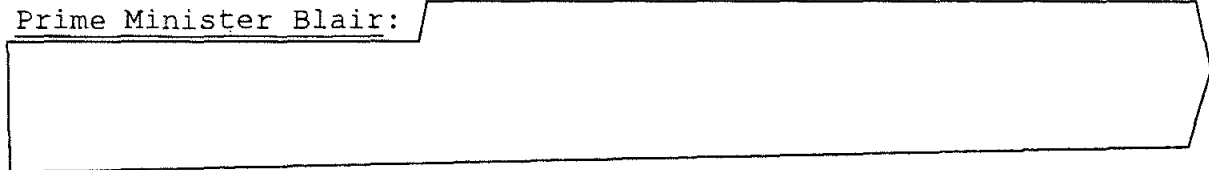
Prime Minister Blair: It says that it's in the hands of the body that deals with prisoner releases and should run up to May 2000. But it also says that decommissioning should run to May 2000 as well.



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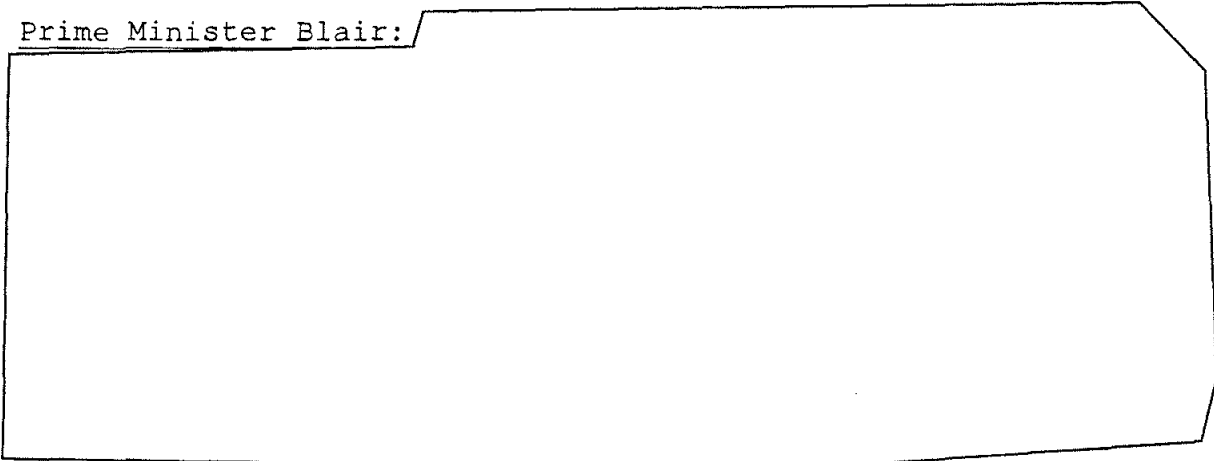
The President: Yes. (C)

Prime Minister Blair:



The President: I got nowhere with Hume on SDLP after I talked with you. So I don't know if I can nose around there again. (C)

Prime Minister Blair:

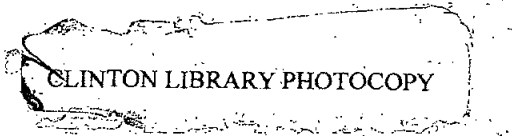


The President: Adams is still holding out the position that nobody else should be in the executive even if it is all their fault. (C)

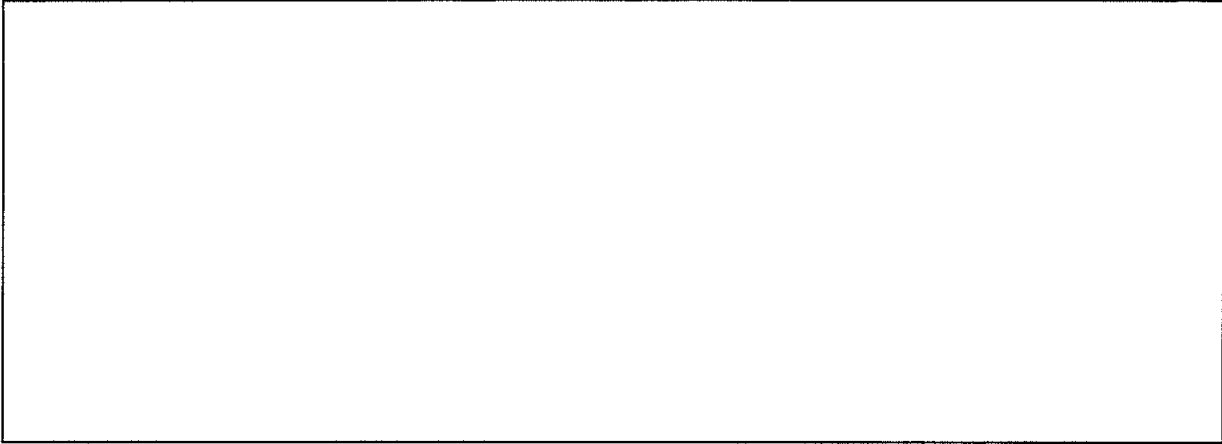
Prime Minister Blair:



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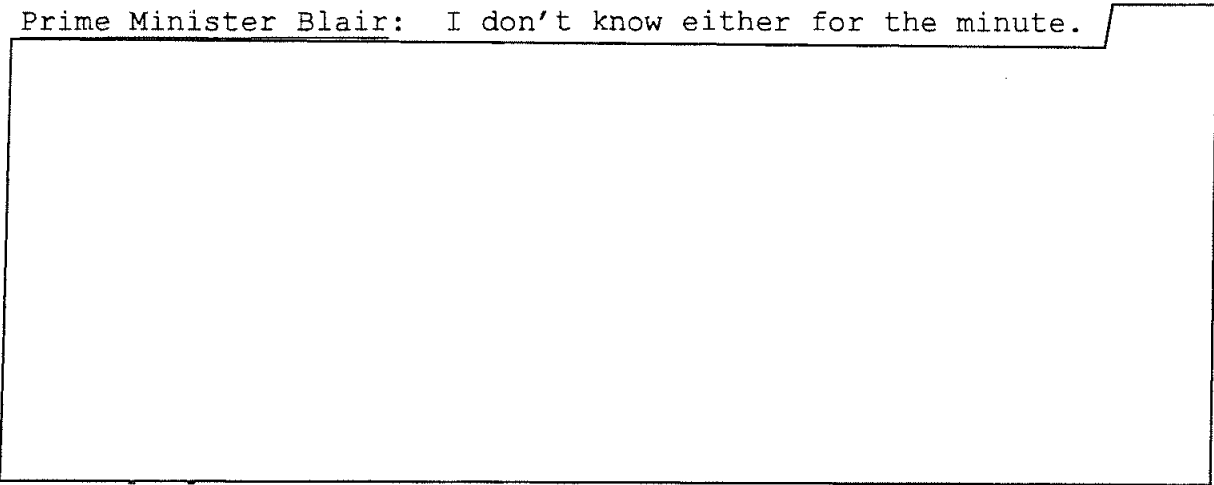


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The President: Yes, I agree with that but I don't know what that does for you on the other side. ~~(S)~~

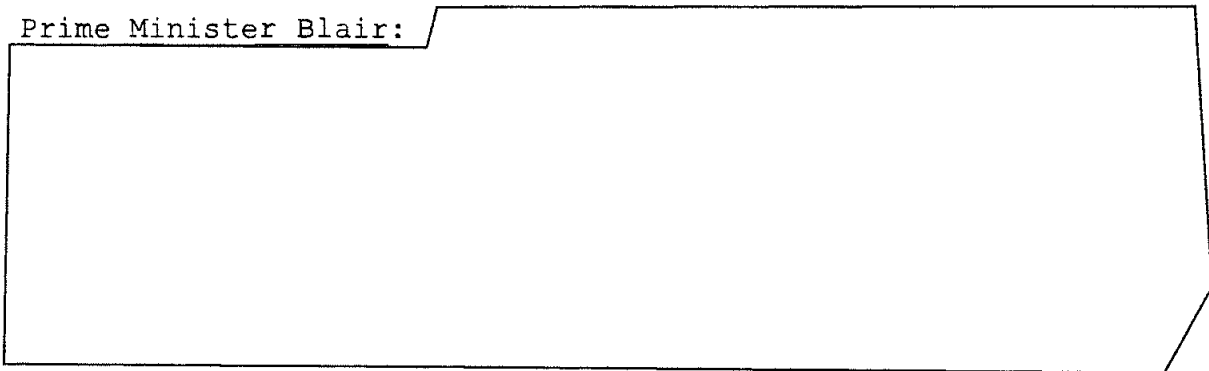
Prime Minister Blair: I don't know either for the minute.



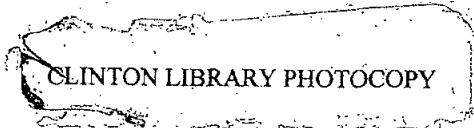
~~(S)~~

The President: Yes, well I'll look at what is...I think the IRA might give some kind of commitment that there would be a statement after July 15. ~~(S)~~

Prime Minister Blair:



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(S)

The President: Yes, alright, let me see what I can do. (S)

Prime Minister Blair: Okay, Bill, I'll be around anytime. I think the next two days are pretty crucial, really. (S)

The President: Well, I'll see what I can do. (S)

Prime Minister Blair: Thanks, Bill, I'll speak to you soon then. (U)

The President: Goodbye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --