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To see .

Transcript of your
call with Mr. Clinton .

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for taking the

page 23/2,

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T.

Well, still the thing that we need is a definite date upon which all-party talks will start. Now the British and the Unionists want an election in between before that happens to give people a mandate to negotiate. The Nationalists, John Hume's people are very unhappy about that. But I think we could probably get them to accept some form of election, so long as the transition from the election to the opening of all-party negotiations is absolutely direct and that there is no delay, no further conditions, no doubts about the move direct from an election into negotiations. Like that the date of the election would be lets say the 10th May and that the negotiations would open on the 15th May and there would be no question of anything happening between the 10th and the 15th that could postpone the 15th of May as the opening date for negotiations. Our view is that if that specific date is delivered, that's the best and only chance of getting the IRA to restore the ceasefire. We feel that if the IRA don't restore the ceasefire that we're in for a long war, that this could go on for a very long time. We are very worried ourselves about its being extended to the South of Ireland aswell by the Loyalists. So we are most anxious that the British would agree to a specific date to give us the best possible chance of getting the ceasefire restored. We are aware of course of John Major's problems in the House of Commons. We are aware of the fact that the SDLP will not

T. Hello

Pres. Clinton. John can you hear me?

T. Oh, hello, is that Bill? Hello. How are you? Good to talk to you and thank you very much for taking the trouble of calling me.

Pres. Clinton Well, I just wanted to check in with you. I've been keeping in close touch with the great efforts that you are making along with the British to get the Peace Process going again and I know you are working on a process to allow all-party talks to start if the ceasefire is restored. I wanted to call and see where you are and did you get any ideas of what else I can do to help.

T. Well, still the thing that we need is a definite date upon which all-party talks will start. Now the British and the Unionists want an election in between before that happens to give people a mandate to negotiate. The Nationalists, John Hume's people are very unhappy about that. But I think we could probably get them to accept some form of election, so long as the transition from the election to the opening of all-party negotiations is absolutely direct and that there is no delay, no further conditions, no doubts about the move direct from an election into negotiations. Like that the date of the election would be lets say the 10th May and that the negotiations would open on the 15th May and there would be no question of anything happening between the 10th and the 15th that could postpone the 15th of May as the opening date for negotiations. Our view is that if that specific date is delivered, that's the best and only chance of getting the IRA to restore the ceasefire. We feel that if the IRA don't restore the ceasefire that we're in for a long war, that this could go on for a very long time. We are very worried ourselves about its being extended to the South of Ireland aswell by the Loyalists. So we are most anxious that the British would agree to a specific date to give us the best possible chance of getting the ceasefire restored. We are aware of course of John Major's problems in the House of Commons. We are aware of the fact that the SDLP will not

vote for him no matter what he does, which is a very foolish position for the SDLP to adopt, but that's been the position that they have adopted for their own reasons. And therefore they have given up leverage on Major. Whereas the Unionists on the other hand are willing to vote either way depending on whether they like what they are getting from Major and therefore they have more bargaining strength in the House of Commons than the SDLP which is effectively abdicated on that score, weakening our position as a result.

Pres. Clinton Well, I will do everything I can to support this. I am staying in touch with Adams as you know.

T. Yes.

Pres. Clinton I'll also do what I can to persuade John Hume to reach an agreement on this elections proposal in return for getting a direct date for the start of all-party talks.

T. Yes, that would be very helpful.

Pres. Clinton You know, if you can think of anything else that I can do, just feel free to call me at anytime, I feel ~~hard~~^{heart} sick about what you are going through over there, but I still think we've got a job to get this thing back on track and I want to do anything I can to do it.

T. Just to let you know, the time table looks like Wednesday for the meeting between John Major and myself, but we won't have a clear picture of what the British are willing to do until Monday, which leaves us with a very short time frame between Monday and Wednesday to put it together and it may be that I might need to talk to you sometime between Monday and Wednesday, but I may not, if things go well, I may not but that's the time frame in which the business will be done or not done as the case may be.

Pres. Clinton That's great, well I'll be around and I'll be available. You can try me if you need me.

T. Well, thank you very much indeed Bill and thank you for taking the trouble as I say of calling, because it is a critical situation at the moment.

Pres. Clinton Well, I think we know what our working orders are if you want to call me next week I'll be glad to hear from you.

T. Thank you very much now, bye, bye.

Pres. Clinton Thanks John, bye.

T. Thanks Bill, bye.