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CONFIDENTIAL

November 2, 2009

For: Hillary
From: Sid
Re: Update on Blair/EU presidency

Jonathan Powell just called to relay the following: He says the Blair EU candidacy is far from dead, though a 40-60 proposition now. Powell has spoken with Sarkozy, who remains supportive. The Socialists damaged Blair because they don't want a strong president and floated the Miliband as EU foreign secretary story in order to undermine Tony further. Powell (and Tony) appreciates Bill's willingness to write an op-ed, but understands why it couldn't be published. Merkel remains the key. Having been for Tony, she is now neutral, but still favorably inclined and doesn't know what to do. A nonentity as president would not appeal to her. Your conversation with her remains important.