

religion  
mixed version

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS

VIDEOTAPE OF CONVERSATION

BETWEEN

MR. MICHAEL McDERMOTT AND MS. PLEASANT BRIDGEWATER

ON

19 JANUARY 2009

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1 (Telephone ringing)  
2 (Telephone call)  
3 MR. McDERMOTT: Hello? Hello?  
4 Yeah. This is Mr. McDermott. Who's calling?  
5 Hey, Pleasant, how you doing? What's going on?  
6 Okay. I'm going to the shower, so whenever you want to  
7 come over, just, you know, give me a buzz when you get here.  
8 Allyson's firm?  
9 I gotta see this.  
10 Oh, man. So, you're telling me -- you're telling me  
11 everybody knows about what we're doing?  
12 Does it have my name in it?  
13 That was in --  
14 Oh, my lord. Well, maybe -- will they -- maybe they'll  
15 have it at the hotel. All right. Well, why don't you come over to  
16 the hotel and then I'll just go down and we'll see if we can find a  
17 newspaper (inaudible). What was it called, the Daily News?  
18 Ah, man, this ain't getting easy. No, I don't like this  
19 either. I don't like this at all. I don't know where they got it.  
20 You still got the original document, right? If I get  
21 the original document, there's no story, then this is all bullshit.  
22 All right. Just come on over.  
23 All right. I'll see -- how long is it --  
24 (Telephone call concluded)  
25 MR. McDERMOTT: Let me get my glasses. I want to be

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1 able to read this the right way.

2 This is freaking me out, young lady.

3 MS. BRIDGEWATER: You could imagine me? Honestly.

4 MR. McDERMOTT: What did Obie say about it? Did he say  
5 anything? Did he say what he believed occurred?

6 MS. BRIDGEWATER: He didn't say. He just --

7 MR. McDERMOTT: What about Tarino? Did Tarino say  
8 anything? Did --

9 MS. BRIDGEWATER: He didn't know. I -- in fact, I haven't  
10 spoken to him about this, you know. He said -- well, actually, I --  
11 I did call him last night when -- after Obie told me that the Tribune  
12 had called him, and he said he's not spoken to anybody, um....

13 MR. McDERMOTT: What about Allyson? Have you spoken to  
14 Allyson since we spoke?

15 MS. BRIDGEWATER: I spoke with Allyson -- not since we  
16 spoke, but when Obie called me and told me about this, I called her.  
17 But she said she hadn't spoken to the Tribune and that she hadn't  
18 spoken to Obie, so I don't know how that came about.

19 I know, um, Obie was quite disturbed about it, you know,  
20 he was saying that, you know, people shouldn't be doing things --  
21 about this part -- I spoke to him about the whole incident.

22 MR. McDERMOTT: Sure. Sure.

23 MS. BRIDGEWATER: He's disturbed about it and, um, I don't  
24 think he would say anything to the --

25 MR. McDERMOTT: I'm trying to figure out who's got a

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1 percentage to do it, but --

2 MS. BRIDGEWATER: Who would do it?

3 MR. McDERMOTT: I don't know. Do you want to still try  
4 and do this? I'm really nervous.

5 MS. BRIDGEWATER: Honestly.

6 MR. McDERMOTT: Now, let me take a deep breath, think  
7 straight.

8 Did you get any answers from him about questions that I  
9 asked you last night, and so I can confirm? If we're going to risk  
10 doing this, I gotta make sure that -- that, you know, this thing  
11 don't blow up next week.

12 MS. BRIDGEWATER: I said to him -- I said -- I said, um --  
13 I think I told him I (inaudible) Travolta's lawyer. I've spoken with  
14 him, he's very concerned about whether -- if they reach an agreement  
15 with you, whether this thing will pop up again.

16 But he's saying, No, not ever. Once it's finished, it's  
17 finished. He said he wants to have it behind him, in any event, so  
18 that, um, so he can go on with his life without any other, um --

19 MR. McDERMOTT: Did you tell him that I had proposed  
20 installment arrangements so that I could buy his silence and be  
21 guaranteed over a period of time that he would remain quiet?

22 MS. BRIDGEWATER: I mentioned -- I said -- he said he was  
23 considering, you know, what period of time to avoid, um, this thing  
24 popping up.

25 MR. McDERMOTT: Sure. And you explained from our

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1 perspective, you know, that that's really the only way that we can be  
2 guaranteed that he's going to do what he said he was going to do.

3 MS. BRIDGEWATER: Well, I didn't tell him, you know --

4 MR. McDERMOTT: In those words.

5 MS. BRIDGEWATER: In those words, but I did say to him  
6 that you were very concerned about the thing popping up.

7 He -- and he said he understands that, you know.

8 I said, um, I spoke to him, They want to know where you  
9 got this 25 million from.

10 MR. McDERMOTT: Yeah. Where the hell did he get the  
11 25 million from?

12 MS. BRIDGEWATER: So, I said, Where did you get it --  
13 where did you get it from anyway?

14 So, he said, well, um, someone told him that things like  
15 this in the United States you can get a hundred -- a hundred --  
16 hundreds of millions of dollars.

17 I said, Well -- I said, Well --

18 MR. McDERMOTT: (Laughing)

19 MS. BRIDGEWATER: I said, Well, according to --

20 MR. McDERMOTT: Boy, I got a little word for that guy.

21 MS. BRIDGEWATER: Yeah. Well, I said, Well, according to  
22 the lawyer, he said, you know, media people would pay about two to  
23 five thousand dollars for the same thing.

24 MR. McDERMOTT: Yeah. I mean, if it was earth-shattering  
25 information, you might get 25 grand out of a tabloid, okay. I mean,

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1 not a respectable newspaper. Respectable newspapers don't believe in  
2 paying for information in that regard.

3 MS. BRIDGEWATER: Right.

4 MR. McDERMOTT: Okay. Tabloids will, you know, so that  
5 they don't have to create it. They can at least take it, embellish  
6 it --

7 MS. BRIDGEWATER: Right.

8 MR. McDERMOTT: -- you know, and spin it.

9 But -- so, you tell him he got -- he just came to them for  
10 25 million because somebody told him it's worth hundreds of million  
11 and then he figured he'd be reasonable, is that it?

12 MS. BRIDGEWATER: Exactly.

13 MR. McDERMOTT: Ah, man.

14 MS. BRIDGEWATER: So, I said -- you know, he said -- he  
15 told me that there's no way that they could raise \$25 million.

16 MR. McDERMOTT: In cash. I mean, 25 million in cash? You  
17 know how much money that is?

18 MS. BRIDGEWATER: That's a whole lot of money.

19 MR. McDERMOTT: It's a lot of money, but it's a lot of  
20 money in bonds and stocks and real estate, investments, but in cash?  
21 In the United States, if you take more than \$10,000 in cash from a  
22 bank, it's a reportable transaction.

23 MS. BRIDGEWATER: Exactly.

24 MR. McDERMOTT: You have to file -- you have to file a  
25 specific report. Now, it's not illegal, you're okay, but --

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1 MS. BRIDGEWATER: Right.

2 MR. McDERMOTT: -- you have to register with the  
3 government that you have done that.

4 MS. BRIDGEWATER: Right.

5 MR. McDERMOTT: So, if we're trying to accumulate  
6 25 million in cash, the government is automatically alerted to the  
7 fact that we're trying to generate this much money, okay, and then  
8 everybody and their mother knows that -- they're, you know, they're  
9 going to investigate, they're going to put a team of people on it.

10 MS. BRIDGEWATER: Right.

11 MR. McDERMOTT: I mean, it's -- I don't know how I'm going  
12 to work the logistics on it, if we come to a number, but -- but  
13 that's crazy, I mean, the physical delivery of any money like that.  
14 That's like -- that's like a pickup truck full of money.

15 MS. BRIDGEWATER: Yeah.

16 MR. McDERMOTT: Or two pickup trucks full of money.  
17 Have you talked to him and told him that -- that we were  
18 interested, but we're going to have to negotiate on the number?

19 MS. BRIDGEWATER: I said that. I said to him, Well, you  
20 know, \$25 million, I said as far as they're concerned, it's like way  
21 out of the ball park.

22 MR. McDERMOTT: How did he respond?

23 MS. BRIDGEWATER: He said, Well, what do you think?

24 I said, Well -- - I said, Well, you know when I spoke to  
25 you and I said you talking about a million dollars.

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1 And you said -- I said -- I said 10 and you said no, I  
2 said, well, you know, I said so --

3 So, he said, Well, what they plan to do?

4 I said, Well, I don't know. We didn't discuss that.

5 MR. McDERMOTT: It's their plan to negotiate. Did he --

6 MS. BRIDGEWATER: (Laughing)

7 MR. McDERMOTT: Did he -- yeah. Right. Okay. It's like  
8 we can do a little rug merchant negotiation here, but, I mean, did --  
9 oh, my god. Did he give you the authority to do that, though? Cause  
10 I don't want to cut a deal with you and then get this thing in the  
11 works and have this guy say, No, no, no, you didn't have the power to  
12 negotiate for me.

13 MS. BRIDGEWATER: Well --

14 MR. McDERMOTT: I mean, or do you -- do you have to call  
15 him?

16 MS. BRIDGEWATER: I'll have to call him.

17 MR. McDERMOTT: All right. I mean, very candidly, what I  
18 was looking at, given the -- the nature of his demand, clear severity  
19 of the situation, the allegations that are being made, the need for  
20 us to get that original document back, was more around about  
21 \$250,000.

22 Do you think that would be fair enough for him?

23 MS. BRIDGEWATER: I don't know. In -- in reference to  
24 what he is asking for.

25 MR. McDERMOTT: How the hell did he pull that number out

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1 of the air? I mean, that's a lot of cash. 250 grand I can probably  
2 do, okay, be a sense to it, and go ahead and I can coordinate the  
3 delivery of it, couple of suitcases, you know, or a suitcase. And,  
4 you know, I can do it, it can be discrete. It can be capable of  
5 being done.

6 We start getting beyond that and then we involve too many  
7 people in terms of having to borrow the money, in terms of having  
8 to -- to -- the reporting requirements. I can probably circumvent  
9 the reporting requirements by getting that amount, so it means that  
10 we can -- one thing -- one portion of this we could do privately,  
11 okay, without the press and hopefully nobody tells the press, but do  
12 you want to talk to him? I'm -- I'm just going to go to the  
13 bathroom, can you call him?

14 MS. BRIDGEWATER: If you want, you can stay (inaudible).

15 MR. McDERMOTT: Okay. Well, let me go to the bathroom.  
16 I'll be back.

17 MS. BRIDGEWATER: Okay.

18 (Mr. McDermott left)

19 (Mr. McDermott returned)

20 (Telephone call)

21 MS. BRIDGEWATER: Hello. Good morning, Tarino?

22 How you doing? This is Pleasant.

23 I'm okay, thank you. Okay. I've, um, spoken with the  
24 attorney. Um, his offer is 250,000.

25 250,000.

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1 MR. McDERMOTT: US.

2 MS. BRIDGEWATER: US.

3 Pardon?

4 That can't cut it?

5 MR. McDERMOTT: Tell him -- tell him the problems that we  
6 have trying to get the money.

7 MS. BRIDGEWATER: You know -- you know that there's  
8 difficulty because when you're talking about, um, taking money out of  
9 the bank or out of the country, you're going into financial  
10 transaction reporting requirements now. You'll have to, um, you'll  
11 have to file all of these things with the, um, the authorities.

12 MR. McDERMOTT: Treasury Department.

13 MS. BRIDGEWATER: It's the same thing if you're -- if  
14 you're doing it in The Bahamas, then you'll have to report it to --  
15 we have the Securities Commission and so forth, so that creates a  
16 problem, um --

17 MR. McDERMOTT: Physical delivery's a problem. A lot of  
18 people would need to know are a problem.

19 MS. BRIDGEWATER: Hello? Okay.

20 (Telephone call concluded)

21 MS. BRIDGEWATER: Call him back. He needs to talk.

22 MR. McDERMOTT: Okay. Okay. Well, I -- you -- you didn't  
23 talk to him about the installments? I mean, I --

24 MS. BRIDGEWATER: I gotta call him back. He said 250 --  
25 250,000 is not going to cut it.

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1 MR. McDERMOTT: That's a lot of money. I mean, 250 grand,  
2 come on. How long is it going to take him to save 250 grand --

3 MS. BRIDGEWATER: He said --

4 MR. McDERMOTT: -- working as an ambulance driver? It's  
5 going to take him five lifetimes.

6 MS. BRIDGEWATER: He said, My mortgage is more than that.

7 MR. McDERMOTT: He's living pretty large. He hasn't done  
8 this before, has he?

9 MS. BRIDGEWATER: His mortgage is more than mine.

10 MR. McDERMOTT: My lord, he's living large. That explains  
11 the economic -- the economic necessity explains what's driving him  
12 then. Justifiably explains it. Ah, man. I gotta have a  
13 confirmation that -- that nobody -- everybody knows -- nobody knows  
14 about the document, nobody knows about the specifics.

15 When he talked to the press, when he talked to  
16 Inside Edition, Greta Susteren, Geraldo and Larry King and everybody  
17 else, he didn't tell them about a specific document, he just told  
18 them that there might be information available which they might be  
19 interested in in reference to Travolta intentionally depriving his  
20 child of medical care, correct? That's accurate?

21 MS. BRIDGEWATER: Correct.

22 MR. McDERMOTT: Okay. So, they don't know about the  
23 document. Nobody knows about the document. He's saying that the  
24 people that witnessed it don't know what the hell they were  
25 witnessing.

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1 MS. BRIDGEWATER: Right.

2 MR. McDERMOTT: The only person that knows is him, you --  
3 Well, does Obie know about the -- now, he knows about a document,  
4 does he know about that -- what it is?

5 MS. BRIDGEWATER: Not specifically.

6 MR. McDERMOTT: Okay. All right. So, you know, I know,  
7 he knows, Allyson knows.

8 MS. BRIDGEWATER: And I think that's it.

9 MR. McDERMOTT: I hope to hell that's it. I hope to hell  
10 that's it.

11 And he hasn't had any contact with any of the news people  
12 other than that, and our conversations have been private to the  
13 extent that we've had them, and you've had them with Allyson.  
14 Somebody's leaked something -- sorry. I'm just -- I'm trying to make  
15 sense of all this. Somebody leaked this to the press. Somebody's  
16 just trying to put two and two together and may be fishing.

17 Well, let's assume -- let's assume that we have an  
18 agreement on the -- on the amount. What can you do for me, if not  
19 coordinate it on an installment basis, what can he do for me to  
20 guarantee me that I'm not going to hear from his girlfriend next  
21 week, from his sister the following week, and from, you know, the guy  
22 that cuts the lawn the following week?

23 How do I know once I give him the money that it's done,  
24 that we're over with, that -- that, you know, he's a man of his word,  
25 that -- that, you know, we received the benefit of our bargain. How?

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1 What kind of assurance can you give me? What kind of comfort level  
2 can you give me?

3 I told you my ass is on the line. I'm the one that's  
4 charged with accomplishing this objective. I have to do it. I'm  
5 responsible for it. If I take this amount of money and throw it  
6 away, I'm done. And I don't want to be done. I want to do the job,  
7 I want to get it done, but I don't want to be done.

8 What can you -- what kind of assurance can you give me?  
9 Other than his word?

10 MS. BRIDGEWATER: You -- you obviously don't want to put  
11 something in writing.

12 MR. McDERMOTT: No. No, thank you. I appreciate that,  
13 okay. I don't need a sworn statement from him, that's okay.

14 MS. BRIDGEWATER: I said to him last night, I said, um,  
15 Their concern is that this thing will not go away once they pay some  
16 money.

17 MR. McDERMOTT: Really. Play devil's advocate.

18 MS. BRIDGEWATER: Yeah. So, he said -- so, I -- he said,  
19 No. He said, It will definitely go away, he said, once it's  
20 finished, once -- once they pay me the amount I want, I'm gone.

21 MR. McDERMOTT: Well, how do I know that if I pay him a  
22 quarter million bucks Wednesday, how do I know that in a month from  
23 now he don't come back with a copy and say, Hey, dude, I need another  
24 quarter of a million bucks, okay?

25 I mean, I'm not experienced at doing this, okay, I'm a

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1 commercial litigator and a -- you know, commercial transactional

2 attorney. I'm used to dealing with different subject matter than

3 this.

4 MS. BRIDGEWATER: Me, too.

5 MR. McDERMOTT: Yeah. So, I'm not experienced. I don't

6 know the rules of the road.

7 MS. BRIDGEWATER: I don't know the rules either

8 (inaudible).

9 MR. McDERMOTT: I'm just trying to figure out what the

10 obvious ones are, okay?

11 MS. BRIDGEWATER: I said to him -- I mean, I said to him,

12 I said to him, I say, You know, if you would go back after these

13 people again, I'll be prepared to take you to the police myself, you

14 know. That's how serious I am -- I feel about the whole thing.

15 Not that that may be any guarantee to you, you know, or --

16 MR. McDERMOTT: No, well, it indicates to me that you have

17 some character anyway in sense of, you know, a deal's a deal, you

18 know, and that -- oh, man.

19 Has he suggested anything other than just giving his word?

20 MS. BRIDGEWATER: No. He just said he wants it to be

21 finished. Once it's finished, he doesn't want it to be hanging over

22 him and he wants to go on with life so that he could --

23 MR. McDERMOTT: I bet -- I bet he's pretty uncomfortable.

24 I gotta tell you, by the way, too, when we had our first conversation

25 when you were at Obie's and he gave you the phone and said to talk to

1 me, and you said, I represent a gentleman who wants to remain  
2 nameless. But he indicated he was the ambulance driver. It took me  
3 about seven seconds to figure out that it was Tarino Lightbourn,  
4 okay, because he had been on the Internet. And I hadn't -- I didn't  
5 know that because I was at Old Bahama Bay handling matters for John,  
6 trying to, you know, handle John on the one hand and press relations  
7 on the other, deal with the police and help them in their  
8 investigation on the other.

9           So, I'm doing all of this stuff and -- and apparently he's  
10 giving statements to the press. I mean, there's -- there's 50  
11 articles on the Internet --

12           MS. BRIDGEWATER: Oh.

13           MR. McDERMOTT: -- where Tarino is commenting on what the  
14 Travoltas said in the ambulance, what the Travoltas said behind the  
15 screens when they were talking about their -- their -- their deceased  
16 son, you know, what his assessment of the situation was, what his --  
17 did you know that?

18           MS. BRIDGEWATER: I -- I -- I didn't know that. I know --  
19 I know he did an interview.

20           MR. McDERMOTT: I think it was on Larry King Live, too,  
21 and some of the -- national TV. I'm not talking about this specific  
22 issue, but talking about personal observations from the scene, okay,  
23 things that he had seen in the course of the performance of his  
24 official responsibilities.

25           But when I -- I pulled ambulance driver, Travolta,

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1 ambulance driver, and it went (made a noise) and there was 697  
2 articles --

3 MS. BRIDGEWATER: Wow.

4 MR. McDERMOTT: -- and Tarino was prominently quoted,  
5 okay, in each of these by different sources, okay, saying different  
6 things about what he had observed during the period of time in  
7 question. They were all very complimentary in the sense that --

8 MS. BRIDGEWATER: He said tried to -- he did say that when  
9 he spoke quite -- to use his words, he said, I think (inaudible)  
10 Travolta.

11 MR. McDERMOTT: So, I thought it was very entertaining  
12 when you called me and you said he'd like to remain nameless, then  
13 you said he was the ambulance driver. So, before the phone call was  
14 over with, I knew what --

15 MS. BRIDGEWATER: His name was.

16 MR. McDERMOTT: -- his name was, you know. And it was  
17 Tarino Lightbourn. That's an interesting name. I never heard that  
18 before.

19 MS. BRIDGEWATER: No?

20 MR. McDERMOTT: Ah, my god. I mean it's, um -- that must  
21 have been difficult for him that morning, too, you know, if you think  
22 about it.

23 How long has he been doing this? How long has he been an  
24 EMT? You don't know? Did you know him before?

25 MS. BRIDGEWATER: I knew him before because his office

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