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Dear by Taoiseach of 26/4



EMBASSY OF IRELAND
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URGENT

FAX NO: 254

25 APRIL 1995

TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON
FOR G CORR FROM M COLLINS

*Daineach
In see please
JM
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*PST, 7 Finlay
DSS
Secretary of State
MURRAY
Mr. Trahan
Mr. Norton
Secretary of State
Eur. Land M.
Counsellors A.I.*

RE: PRESIDENT WELCOMES MINISTERIAL TALKS WITH SINN FEIN

1. As discussed, the **White House** last night issued a **statement** - copy attached - in which the President welcomed the announcement by the British Government and by Sinn Fein on the question of Ministerial talks. President Clinton said that this step "builds on the historic ceasefires now in place in Northern Ireland and offers further promise of progress towards a comprehensive and lasting peace in that troubled land".
2. Recalling his statement during Prime Minister Major's visit here on 4 April, President Clinton said that he views a serious approach to the issues of arms decommissioning as crucially important to resolving the conflict in Northern Ireland. He adds "we welcome Sinn Fein's stated readiness to take such a serious approach. Similarly, we applaud the willingness of British Ministers to address other issues of concern to Sinn Fein".
3. **The statement concludes with the President restating his strong support for the efforts of the Irish and British Governments "in their courageous efforts to achieve a just and lasting peace in Northern Ireland".**

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