



# An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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AMBASÁID NA HÉIREANN

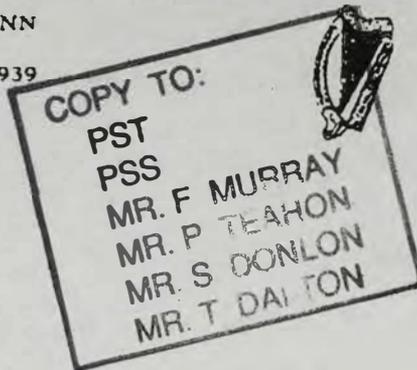
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SECURE FAX

13 June 1995

Dear Secretary

EMBASSY OF IRELAND  
2234 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008

1. I met Nancy Soderberg, Director at the National Security Council, at a party last evening in the Vice President's Residence. She was just back from Belfast and Switzerland and was still catching up on developments. The following points which arose in our discussion, and some subsequent issues, will be of interest. I might add that we will have an opportunity for a more detailed review on Friday evening when Ms Soderberg comes to the Residence for a "thank you" party for the key players in the organisation of the recent Washington Investment Conference.

Gerry Adams

2. The visa for Gerry Adams would be renewed, almost certainly for a further three months, as is now pretty well the norm, and without any restrictions. As reported earlier, Mr Adams had requested a twelve month renewal; while Ms Soderberg was sympathetic to the request, she decided not to push the matter at this time.
3. In the course of a meeting with Ms Soderberg during last week's Belfast Conference, Mr Adams had indicated that he would wish to be in Washington on the anniversary of the cease-fire and specifically to be received by the President. Ms Soderberg was, understandably, very cautious in her response and made it clear in particular that there would have to be some significant development on decommissioning before the request could even be considered. (I might add that, on decommissioning, she believes some new thinking needs to be brought to bear

fairly soon in order to get all sides off the hook).

Presidential visit

4. The British were still not able to agree to the 29 November-2 December dates, and declined to say what the problem was. The U.S. were continuing to push them hard to agree and expected this would be successful; finding alternative dates would not be easy at this stage.
5. Ms Soderberg said that, if the visit went ahead, the British had indicated they would wish the Prime Minister to accompany the President in Belfast. She said she would appreciate our views on this.

Conor O'Clery's questions

6. In an exchange today with the White House press spokesman, Mike McCurry, Conor O'Clery told us he was informed that, while no formal bilateral meeting between the President and John Major was planned for the G7 meeting later this week, an informal 15 minute bilateral was likely, and that this would include Northern Ireland. O'Clery went on to ask if the President was concerned about the present fragile state of the peace process, and was told by McCurry that concern was exactly the right word.
7. Nancy Soderberg was very surprised when I filled her in on the above, as was Kathy Stephens in a separate discussion with Michael Collins. She emphasised that no bilateral was envisaged at this stage though the President and the Prime Minister would obviously meet "on the side-lines", when Bosnia was likely to be the main subject of discussion.
8. As regards any possible Presidential concern about the peace process, Ms

Soderberg said that Mr McCurry "must have been talking off the top of his head". She had not known about McCurry's exchange with O'Clery but, having just come back from Belfast, she emphasised that she had no particular concern about the peace process at this time.

Tánaiste and Michael Ancram

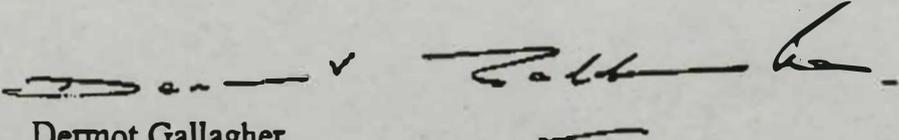
9. She very much enjoyed and appreciated her discussion with the Tánaiste at the Belfast Conference, and also the opportunity this gave her to get acquainted with Minister Ancram. She said she was surprised to find Mr Ancram so self-assured and lively, adding that, given the contrast between the two, "maybe he should have Mayhew's job"!

The Vice President

10. The Vice President said he was extremely pleased at the way the Washington Conference had gone; we now needed to keep the momentum going, as he and the Tánaiste had emphasised at their meeting.
11. The Vice President also expressed appreciation for the very warm welcome Captain O'Grady had received at Shannon, saying that everyone here was quite touched by this and by the fact that his relatives had come to the airport.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

  
Dermot Gallagher  
Ambassador

Seán Ó hUiginn Uas  
Secretary  
Department of Foreign Affairs