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AMBASÁID NA HÉIREANN

TELEPHONE: (202) 462-3939

FAX: (202) 232-5993



EMBASSY OF IRELAND

2234 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008

SECURE FAX

12 February 1996

DAVID TRIMBLE'S VISIT TO WHITE HOUSE

COPY TO:	
✓	PST
✓	PSS
✓	MR F MURRAY
✓	MR P TEAHON
✓	MR S DONLON
✓	MR J DALTON

Dear Secretary

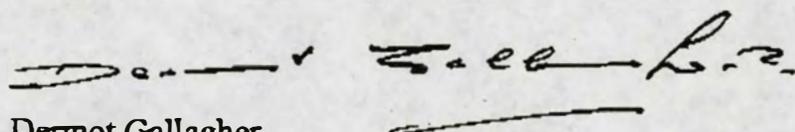
1. Nancy Soderberg called to fill me in on the Trimble meeting at the White House today. She said his approach had been very much along the lines of our meeting last evening (on which I had briefed Soderberg earlier). In particular, he took the line that the London bomb had made matters harder for him, leaving significantly less room for manoeuvre.
2. As regards his attitude to a restored ceasefire, if this proved possible to put in place, Trimble said he would now need much more reassurance that this was for real. Asked to elaborate, he seemed to imply that, if Sinn Féin could be got to accept the approach and principles set out in the Mitchell Report and in the Forum text, this would be helpful. As with our discussion last night, he did not raise the decommissioning issue.
3. As expected, the elective process was discussed in quite some detail, with Trimble expressing himself as strongly opposed to either a European or a list system for elections. He saw both systems, as opposed to a constituency-based framework, as giving Paisley (and Hume) a distinct advantage.
4. More ominously, Trimble urged strongly that any elected Body must have a role and

work to do, and should set up a range of Committees to take its mandate forward. Lake and Soderberg, for their part, sought to push him hard on the approach they had discussed with the Tánaiste on Friday. This was not easy territory and, while Trimble's views were not cast in concrete, they felt that there was "much work to be done" with him if we were going to be able to move forward.

5. Returning to the London bomb, Trimble said it was important that Adams be punished for the atrocity, and not be allowed off scot-free. In this regard, he urged the Administration to withdraw the Sinn Féin leader's visa and not allow him into the U.S. (He agreed that he would not say publicly that he had raised this issue).

6. In the above regard, the public response of the Administration to questions on Adams' visa, and also to his licence to fundraise, will be to stress that, as their priority lies in trying to restore the ceasefire, they are not addressing such matters at this time. Soderberg accepts of course, as reported earlier, that these "difficult issues" will have to be addressed sooner or later, as will their approach to functions in the St Patrick's Day period. Her initial private view is that, even if the Administration were to allow Adams to travel here, it is hard to see how, in circumstances where a ceasefire was not in place, they could agree to his being able to fundraise.

Yours sincerely


Dermot Gallagher
Ambassador

Seán Ó hUiginn Uas
Secretary

(14)

AMBASÁID NA HÉIREANN
TELEPHONE: (202) 462-3939
FAX: (202) 232-5993



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

IMMEDIATE

SECURE FAX NO: SF 25

12 FEBRUARY 1996

TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON
FOR B SCANNELL FROM P HENNESSY

COPY TO:
S/S O HUIGINN
PST
PSS
MR. F. MURRAY
MR. P. TEAHON
MR. S. DONLON
MR. T. DALTON

1. I was guest yesterday at a small buffet lunch for the visiting UUP leader, David Trimble, and his two colleagues (Ken Maginnis and Jeffrey Donaldson) hosted by the Northern Ireland Bureau of the British Embassy. The guests included some journalists, Van Son and Martinez from the State Department, and a number of businessmen and others with links to Northern Ireland.
2. In conversation with both Maginnis and Donaldson, they spoke approvingly of the Government's response to the London bombing, and referred in positive terms to the statements issued on the Government's behalf. However, Trimble, in conversation, contrasted the statements with what he characterized as the Taoiseach's unhelpful criticism of John Major in radio interviews during the day.
3. Maginnis, clearly anxious to validate his pronouncements on the subject over the last few months, claimed that the decision to end the ceasefire had in fact been taken last June. He suggested that Friday's bombing would be followed by a lull, thought that thereafter attacks on prestige targets in Northern Ireland (including, he implied, leading politicians) were likely. He suggested that the ending of the ceasefire was the logical consequence of

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Sinn Fein "rejection" of the Downing Street Declaration, the Mitchell report and the draft Forum report. He insisted that there was now an onus on the constitutional Nationalist parties to reassess seriously their relationship with Sinn Fein.

4. I joined a group with Donaldson in considering the Unionist response to the ceasefire, as well as to the week-end's events. Referring to the necessity to reimpose security precaution at his home on Friday night, he insisted that the Unionist community shared the regret at the ending of the ceasefire. Responding to points about the negative Unionist response over the past 17 months, Donaldson spoke of the lack of trust in the Unionist community, and referred to the many people (himself included) who had lost relatives to IRA violence. I noted that people from both communities had made tremendous efforts to overcome the difficult legacy of the past; there was an onus on politicians to show leadership, and suggested that acceptance by the UUP of the Tanaiste's invitation to talks was overdue. Without going into details, Donaldson suggested that a meeting could take place before the end of the month.

Visa/Fund-raising

5. In discussion with Van Son and Martinez, they referred to the difficult decision which they face on the visa and fund-raising issue. Adams, whose visa has expired, had previously advised the US authorities that he planned to visit the United States for about 10 days around the St Patrick's Day period. He was due to be accompanied by Martin McGuinness and Mitchell McLoughlin.
6. The Administration will have three issues to address:
 - granting of visas
 - if granted, whether prohibition on fund-raising should be reinstated
 - if granted entry, principal, and level, of access to White House

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7. Both referred to the decision taken by the Irish Government not to meet with Adams (I pointed to the terms of the decision, and the provision for contact at senior official level) and said that Washington could not be out of line with Dublin and London, on this issue.

Programme

8. Trimble's programme includes meetings with Senator Mitchell, lunch with Tony Lake at the White House (where a drop-by by the President is expected), meeting with Ron Brown, lecture at Woodrow Wilson Center and dinner organized by the Northern Ireland Bureau. Trimble will also call to the State Department. The delegation will return to Belfast tomorrow (Tuesday), with the exception of Ken Maginnis who travels on to New York for media and other engagements.

ENDS

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