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IMMEDIATE

SECURE FAX NO: 145

28 JUNE 1996

TO HQ
FOR SECRETARY O HUIGINN

FROM WASHINGTON
FROM P HENNESSY

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MR. P. TEAHON	
MR. S. DONLON	
MR. T. DALTON	

MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT AND PM, LYONS

1. I got a read-out from the NSC on today's meeting in Lyons between President Clinton and PM Major. [The NSC commented that the meeting was not very satisfactory because of the large number of officials present on both sides, it is expected that Tony Lake will have further discussions with the British side during the Summit. A further meeting between the President and the PM is also not excluded.
2. President Clinton made a number of points:
 - expressed support for the efforts of the two Governments
 - reiterated his belief that the Talks are where the action is
 - the US continues to leave open the door for Sinn Fein, and notes that this is also the approach of the two Governments
3. Among the points made by Major:
 - recalled the three recent incidents (Adare, Manchester and Clonaslee)
 - the bomb factory in Co Laois was a more serious find than most people realized, and it was interesting, and encouraging, that the find was made as a result of a tip

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from the public to the Gardai. This was an indication of public reaction in the wake of recent developments.

- Mitchell was continuing to do a good job (Major joked that after his recent experiences he was probably missing Newt Gingrich)
- Trimble was being relatively helpful, while McCartney was a complete trouble-maker
- relations between Dublin and the UUP were improving.
- The British remained committed to the process. They would hold to their current line; it was not intended to impose any new preconditions.

4. Another factor contributing to the somewhat fragmented nature of the meeting was the fact that the two leaders spent a considerable amount of time discussing the Dhahran attack, and the move by Chirac and Major to switch the main focus of the Summit to the fight against terrorism. There is a feeling in the White House that this renewed focus on international terrorism makes still more problematic the situation of the Administration in the event of a further bombing incident post-Manchester, a scenario about which there was already very serious concern.

END