



# An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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

SECURE FAX NO: 154

18 JULY 1996

COPY TO: <sup>UE</sup>  
PST 19  
PSS 7  
MR. P. TEAHON  
MR. S. DONLON  
MR. T. DALTON

TO HQ  
FOR SECRETARY O HUIGINN

FROM WASHINGTON  
FROM P HENNESSY

DEVELOPMENTS ON CAPITOL HILL

1. Nancy Soderberg this morning chaired a conference call with the co-chairmen of the Ad Hoc Group, and others, on the latest developments in the peace process. According to some of the participants (and confirmed in conversation between the Ambassador and Ms Soderberg), the White House line was :
  - to emphasize strong continuing support for the Talks process;
  - to express understanding for the depth of feeling in the nationalist community following last week's events, but to urge against preoccupation with attributing blame;
  - to stress the need for an IRA cease-fire, which would allow the Talks to move ahead on an all-party basis, and
  - to reaffirm the primacy of the Mitchell Principles.
  
2. Soderberg emphasized that the White House was in continuing contact with Hume and Adams. She reported Hume as deeply upset at developments, and there was clearly some concern at his low morale.

3. During the call Congressman Ben Gilman argued strongly for a shift in the US position to favor Sinn Fein participation in the Talks "without preconditions" i.e. without a cease-fire. Soderberg responded that this was not the position of either the President, of Mitchell, or of the two Governments. She also suggested that to push this line would pose serious difficulties with US domestic opinion in the aftermath of events in Saudi Arabia. However, she allowed that Gilman could put his position to the President if he so wished.
4. Shortly following the call a letter (copy attached) signed by the four co-chairs and Jim Walsh issued to the White House. There is a perception that Gilman sees some partisan advantage in this move - it is noteworthy that the letter is addressed to Clinton rather than, say, to the British Government - while, in the current climate, the others will also have felt obliged to take account of domestic electoral considerations. From contacts this evening, however, it is clear that at least some of the signatories (e.g. Neal) will not be pressing the point actively.
5. That said, there is no doubt that dismay at Trimble's behavior throughout the Drumcree affair, reinforced by revelations of links with Loyalist paramilitary figures, have evoked a strong reaction. There is a view, by no means universal but increasingly evident on the House side, that to exclude Adams while failing to penalize Trimble, is an exercise in double-standards, and politically untenable.
6. We understand that this position will not be endorsed by senior figures such as Senator Kennedy. At a speech at the Harvard Workshop this week-end, he is likely to concentrate on exposing the hypocrisy of Trimble's position (and the need to ensure that any decommissioning process applies as much to Loyalist mob violence, as to Republican paramilitaries), and urge the British Government to play its part in allowing the talks process to move forward.
7. It is worth noting that Sinn Féin here ( and in New York) are claiming that Hume has

expressed support for participation in the Talks without preconditions, and are using this to urge that pressure be brought to bear on the Administration, and the two Governments, to change position. We have pointed out that there is no evidence to this effect (SF sources appear to be relying on recent press reports which quote the SDLP leader as simply endorsing all-party talks).

8. A letter to the British Prime Minister condemning "in the strongest possible terms" the decisions taken at Drumcree and Ormeau Road, and expected to be signed by a large bipartisan group, is also expected to issue later today (copy attached). The signatories of the letter express solidarity with the Taoiseach, the SDLP leader and the Cardinal in expressing "outrage over the RUC's failure to protect both communities equally". Chairman Gilman has also written to David Trimble raising the question of his adherence to the Mitchell Principles, and seeking clarification before he next visits the US. Sean McManus has also sought to embroil the White House in the issue (see attached).
9. Finally, in relation to the Apprentice Boys' parade in Derry on 10 August, Soderberg told House members that the Administration was aware of the need for extremely sensitive handling. She also indicated support for the Taoiseach's call for an independent commission to deal with future parades.

ENDS

[Total pages: 3]

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 18, 1996

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

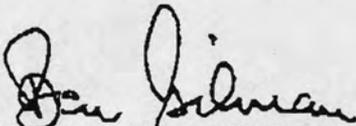
Mr. President:

We, the undersigned Members of Congress, urge you to call on the British and Irish Governments to immediately commence all-party talks on the future of Northern Ireland, including Sinn Fein, without any preconditions. Northern Ireland is slowly sinking into an "abyss". Other key leaders have also lent their names to the need to commence talks without any preconditions.

We urge you to do all you can to bring an end to the provocative forced Orange Order marches through Catholic communities, and to work to restore order in Northern Ireland.

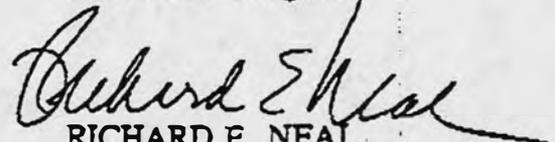
With best wishes,

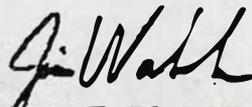
Sincerely,

  
BENJAMIN A. GILMAN  
Member of Congress

  
THOMAS J. MANTON  
Member of Congress

  
PETER T. KING  
Member of Congress

  
RICHARD E. NEAL  
Member of Congress

  
JAMES T. WALSH  
Member of Congress

BAG:jpm/jrw

07/18/96 19:18

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515RICHARD E. NEAL  
SECOND DISTRICT  
MASSACHUSETTS

July 17, 1996

The Right Honorable John Major  
Prime Minister  
The British Embassy  
3100 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Prime Minister Major:

We are writing to express our deep concern over the most recent events in Northern Ireland which have placed the peace process in grave jeopardy. The return of sectarian violence has saddened those on both sides of the Atlantic who have worked tirelessly to bring peace and justice to that troubled island. While we remain hopeful that both governments and all-parties can restore confidence and trust, we do have serious questions over decisions that proceeded and followed the stand-off at Drumcree.

In particular, we wish to condemn in the strongest possible terms, the decision of the British government and the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) to allow Orange Order marches to proceed through predominately Catholic neighborhoods in Portadown and Belfast triggering the worst violence in Northern Ireland in a generation. At best, the annual marches along the Garvaghy Road and the Ormeau Road are insensitive and irresponsible. At worst, they are provocative displays of triumphalism which have historically led to confrontation and violence. It is our belief that those who forced the government and the RUC to capitulate to the threats of the Orangemen, including Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) leader David Trimble, must be held accountable for their shameful actions.

We are equally concerned about the appalling lack of police protection in the nationalist neighborhoods following the Orange marches that resulted in many Catholic families being intimidated, harassed and burned out of their homes. Quite simply, the actions of the British government and the RUC over the past ten days have reinforced nationalist's fears of discrimination, lack of democratic and human rights and second-class citizenship. We join the Taoiseach John Bruton, Social Democratic and Labor Party (SDLP) leader John Hume, and Cardinal Cahal Daly in expressing our outrage over the RUC's failure to protect both communities equally.

Letter to Prime Minister Major - Page 2

The undersigned Members of Congress have been outspoken supporters of the Mitchell Principles. We have strongly condemned both nationalist and loyalist paramilitary violence. We firmly believe that a permanent and peaceful settlement can only be achieved through direct dialogue between all-political parties with a political mandate. But the spectacle of forced Orange Order marches through Catholic neighborhoods, David Trimble meeting with known terrorists and the RUC's blatant double standard leaves many of us deeply concerned about the future of the peace process.

Sincerely,

*Richard E. Neal*

*Thomas J. Manton*

*Jim Walsh*

*Joe Proskauer*

*Steve S. King*

*Marty Meehan*

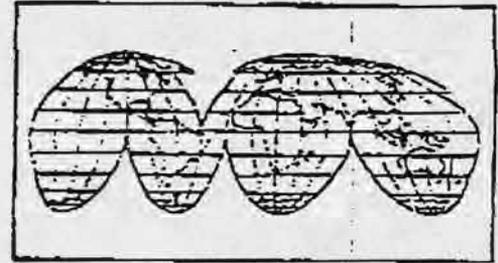
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**NEWS** FROM THE

## House International Relations Committee

Benjamin A. Gilman, Chairman



DATE: July 18, 1996  
CONTACT: Jerry Lipson, Communications Director

FOR RELEASE: Immediate  
202-225-5021

### GILMAN LEADS CALL FOR ALL-PARTY TALKS NOW

#### IN N. IRELAND WITH NO PRECONDITIONS

WASHINGTON -- After a briefing Thursday by key Clinton Administration officials on the situation in Northern Ireland, Chairman Benjamin A. Gilman (20th-NY) led a Congressional call for immediate all-party talks with no preconditions.

Gilman, Co-Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee for Irish Affairs, wrote to President Clinton urging him to call for all-party talks and also work to end the "provocative forced" marches of Protestants through Catholic Communities.

Also signing the letter were the other three co-chairs of the Ad Hoc committee, Congressmen Peter King (3rd-NY), Thomas Manton (6th-NY), and Richard Neal (2nd-MA), and Congressman James Walsh (25th-NY), Chairman of the Friends of Ireland in the House. Following is the text of the letter:

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Mr. President:

We, the undersigned Members of Congress, urge you to call on the British and Irish Governments to immediately commence all-party talks on the future of Northern Ireland, including Sinn Fein, without any preconditions. Northern Ireland is slowly sinking into an "abyss". Other key leaders have also lent their names to the need to commence talks without any preconditions.

We urge you to do all you can to bring an end to the provocative forced Orange Order marches through Catholic communities, and to work to restore order in Northern Ireland.

-0-

07/18/96 18:50

20.03 RITH MULLAN

202 547 7103

TO:

008/008

P02



**Irish National Caucus**  
 Capitol Hill • 413 E. Capitol St., SE  
 Washington, D.C. 20003-3810  
 Tel. (202) 544-0568 • Fax (202) 543-2491

## NEWS RELEASE

**ATTENTION: NEWS DIRECTOR**

**Contact:**

**Fr. Seán McManus**  
**Phone (202) 544-0568**

# Clinton Called Upon to Condemn Anti-Catholic Bigotry in Northern Ireland Must Renounce Trimble

President Clinton  
 The White House

July 17, 1996

Dear President Clinton,

You have stated you are seeking to pursue a policy of even-handedness towards all sides in the Northern Ireland conflict. And you have insisted that all sides endorse and live by the Mitchell Principles.

Mr. David Trimble, Leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, because of his deplorable conduct at Drumcree is in clear violation of the Mitchell Principles. Irish-Americans now expect you to be even-handed in your public condemnation of Mr. Trimble's violation of the Mitchell Principles.

Furthermore, Irish-Americans will want to know what your position is regarding Mr. Trimble's membership in the Orange Order. The Orange Order is historically — and in principle and in practice — anti-Catholic. It expels anyone who becomes a Catholic or marries a Catholic.

What would your position be on a public official in the U.S. who was a member of an organization that was anti-Black or anti-Jewish? Wouldn't you join with all right thinking people and demand that person to resign from such an organization?

The Irish National Caucus calls on you to demand that David Trimble resigns from the Orange Order before you welcome him to the White House again... and that he unequivocally embraces the Mitchell Principles.

I look forward to an early response. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Father Sean McManus  
 President