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IRELAND



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P.A. Mr & J. Linn
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P.S.S.
PSM
Mr Burke
Mr Davenport
G.P.S.
T. Smyth
W.H. [unclear]

TO HQ
FOR WHELAN

FROM LONDON
FROM HENNESSY

FOLLOWING ARTICLE IN THIS AFTERNOON'S EVENING STANDARD WILL BE OF INTEREST IN CONTEXT OF MINISTERS VISIT (PLEASE COPY DAVENPORT). WE HAVE COPIED PARTY IN BIRMINGHAM DIRECTLY.

KEN'S WELCOME FOR SINN FEIN MP ADAMS

LABOUR GLC LEADER KEN LIVINGSTONE HAS INVITED GERRY ADAMS, PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN MP FOR WEST BELFAST, TO VISIT COUNTY HALL TOMORROW MORNING.

THEY WILL BE JOINED BY FORMER LABOUR MP TONY BENN AND SOME LABOUR BOROUGH LEADERS AND GLC COUNCILLORS.

IN THE AFTERNOON MR ADAMS GOES TO THE COMMONS TO TALK TO LABOUR MP'S. ON WEDNESDAY EVENING HE SHARES A PLATFORM WITH MR LIVINGSTONE AT FINSBURY TOWN HALL.

MR JERRY CORBYN, LABOUR MP FOR NORTH ISLINGTON, IS ARRANGING THE COMMONS VISIT.

HE SAID: "WE WANT PEOPLE IN LONDON TO HAVE A CHANCE TO HEAR FOR THE FIRST TIME AN ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND PUTTING FORWARD AN ALTERNATIVE POLICY RETAINING BRITISH TROOPS THERE."

IN A LETTER TO THE N47 MEMBERS OF HIS LABOUR GROUP, MR LIVINGSTONE HAS STRESSED THAT THE COUNTY HALL VISIT IS PRIVATE AND INFORMAL. EVEN SO IT HAS ANGERED SOME MEMBERS OF THE GROUP WHO BELIEVE IT WILL FUEL MRS THATCHER'S CAMPAIGN TO ABOLISH THE GLC.

"WHY DON'T THEY MEET IN PADDY'S BAR IN KILBURN?," ASKED TONY JUDGE, LABOUR GLC MEMBER FOR MITHCAM AND MORDEN.

OFFICIALS OF THE LABOUR PARTY IN ISLINGTON WHERE THERE IS A LARGE IRISH POPULATION, ARE SPONSORING MR ADAMS'S VISIT.

THEY NARROWLY FAILED TO WIN BACKING FOR IT FROM THE EXECUTIVE OF THE LONDON LABOUR PARTY. AFTER A TIED VOTE THE CHAIRMAN ARTHUR LATHAM, WHO IS OPPOSED TO THE VISIT, RULED THAT THERE WAS INSUFFICIENT SUPPORT.

THE GLC LABOUR GROUP ALSO TOOK NO OFFICIAL ACTION ON THE VISIT.

THERE WAS OUTCRY LAST YEAR WHEN MR LIVINGSTONE FIRST INVITED MR ADAMS, VICE PRESIDENT OF PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN, TO COME TO LONDON.

LABOUR LEADER MICHAEL FOOT COMPLAINED PERSONALLY TO THE GLC LEADER AND EVENTUALLY THE GOVERNMENT PUT AN EXCLUSION ORDER ON MR ADAMS. MR LIVINGSTONE LATER VISITED MR ADAMS IN BELFAST.

THE EXCLUSION ORDER ON MR ADAMS WAS RESCINDED WHEN HE BECAME MP FOR BELFAST WEST. ALTHOUGH HE IS GOING TO THE COMMONS THERE IS NO QUESTION OF HIM TAKING HIS SEAT.

MR LIVINGSTONE SAID THIS AFTERNOON: "GERRY ADAMS IS COMING AT MY INVITATION SO THAT HE CAN BE AVAILABLE TO MEET OTHER MEMBERS OF THE LABOUR GROUP AND MEMBERS OF THE LONDON LABOUR PARTY EXECUTIVE AND ANSWER THEIR QUESTIONS.

"HE IS AN ELECTED MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AND REPRESENTS A PARTY WHICH HAS THE SUPPORT OF ONE VOTER IN SIX.

"WITHOUT THE AGREEMENT OF THE REPUBLICAN COMMUNITY IN THE NORTH THERE IS NEVER GOING TO BE PEACE.

"ANYTHING THAT ALLOWS US TO HAVE DISCUSSIONS AND MEET OTHER POLITICIANS IS WORTH DOING". MR LIVINGSTONE EXPLAINED IN A BBC RADIO LONDON INTERVIEW.

HE REJECTED A SUGGESTION THAT, WITH THE GLC THREATENED WITH ABOLITION, HE SHOULD MODIFY HIS VIEWS.

MR LIVINGSTONE STRESSED THAT HE HAD MADE A PRIVATE INVITATION TO MR ADAMS.

END

25/07/83
TIME: 14.51

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Recd 26/7/83