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CONSULATE GENERAL OF IRELAND
515 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022

DATE: 10 NOVEMBER 1993.

TO: HQ, ANGLO-IRISH FROM: CON. GEN. NEW YORK.

FOR: ASS. SEC. O'HIGINN FROM: DERMOT BRANGAN.

PLEASE COPY BRENDAN MCMAHON, PRESS SECTION.

NO. OF PAGES INCL. COVER: 2

1. Attached for your information, in case you have not already seen it, is a copy of a letter President Clinton sent to Mayor Dinkins on 29 October 1993 in reply to his letter asking the President to give favourable consideration to a visa for Gerry Adams. You will note that the President's letter in paragraph 4 says that neither the British nor Irish Government favour granting Adams a visa. The latter assertion is hardly likely to endear us to Irish Americans even though we have, as far as I know, never publically offered such a view on this issue except to say it was none of our business.

2. The letter is likely to infuriate Irish Americans who already feel betrayed by Clinton in relation to the peace envoy issue. I understand that Bruce Morrison has reacted angrily to it. The implied rejection of the Hume Adams initiative will also be unpopular in the same circles.

3. I understand that the Irish Times now has a copy of the letter and will run with the story tomorrow.

CC. Ambassador, Washington.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 30, 1993

Dear David:

Thank you for your letter regarding a visa for Gerry Adams.


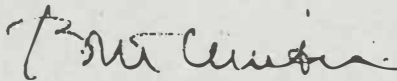
As you know, Adams has applied on several occasions over the past years for a U.S. visa, and each time, he has been refused under U.S. immigration law because of his involvement in terrorist activity. Adams' ineligibility could be waived by the Attorney General on the recommendation of the Secretary of State, but I supported her most recent decision not to do so in April of this year.

I continue to believe that we should not grant Adams a waiver. Credible evidence exists that Adams remains involved at the highest level in devising PIRA strategy. Moreover, despite his recent talks with Social Democratic and labor party leader John Hume, Adams still has not publicly renounced terrorism.

Unfortunately, recent events provide no grounds for reconsidering Adam's visa request. The PIRA's October 23 bombing in Belfast that killed ten people -- including two children -- has underscored the brutal and terrorist nature of the organization and undermined efforts to resume the political dialogue among the parties. Neither the British nor the Irish government favor granting Adams a visa.

My Administration's policy continues to support the early resumption of political talks as the most promising way to seek peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland.

Sincerely,



The Honorable David N. Dinkins
Mayor of the City of New York
New York, New York 10007

AMBASAID NA HÉIREANN

(202) 462-3939



EMBASSY OF IRELAND

2234 MASSACHUSETTS AVE. N. W.

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008

IMMEDIATEFAX NO: 314

10 NOVEMBER 1993

TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY O HUIGINN FROM NOEL KILKENNY

PLEASE COPY PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE TÁNAISTE

Attached is a copy of a letter from President Clinton to Mayor Dinkins of New York concerning a visa for Gerry Adams. You will note that in the penultimate paragraph the President states that "neither the British nor the Irish Government favour granting Adams a visa". Conor O'Clery, who provided us with a copy of the letter, has asked if the White House sought the advice of the Irish Government on the question of a visa for Adams and, if so, what our advice was. Conor has indicated that with or without our reaction the letter will be the front page story in tomorrow's Irish Times.

I understand that Ambassador Gallagher is trying to contact you directly about this.

END

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES: (2)

TRANSMITTING OPERATOR: MARY SWEENEY

cc *Embassy*
Mr. Collins
Mr. K. Mearns

Brown
Ci Pucci

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 30, 1993

Dear David:

Thank you for your letter regarding a visa for Gerry Adams.

As you know, Adams has applied on several occasions over the past years for a U.S. visa, and each time, he has been refused under U.S. immigration law because of his involvement in terrorist activity. Adams' ineligibility could be waived by the Attorney General on the recommendation of the Secretary of State, but I supported her most recent decision not to do so in April of this year.

I continue to believe that we should not grant Adams a waiver. Credible evidence exists that Adams remains involved at the highest level in devising PIRA strategy. Moreover, despite his recent talks with Social Democratic and labor party leader John Hume, Adams still has not publicly renounced terrorism.

Unfortunately, recent events provide no grounds for reconsidering Adams' visa request. The PIRA's October 23 bombing in Belfast that killed ten people -- including two children -- has underscored the brutal and terrorist nature of the organization and undermined efforts to resume the political dialogue among the parties. Neither the British nor the Irish government favor granting Adams a visa.

My Administration's policy continues to support the early resumption of political talks as the most promising way to seek peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland.

Sincerely,

Tom Clines

The Honorable David N. Dinkins
Mayor of the City of New York
New York, New York 10007

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