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DEC 08 '93 14:13 ASSOCIATE MAN ORKLEY

Rec'd 10/12

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(14)

Americans For a New Irish Agenda

*Miss Morrison,
hair*

December 7, 1993

*cc PST
PSS: Ffand
AIS: J. J. J.
Just see
Amb. Lora
F. Murray
Counselor*

*Mr. Adams
to see
10/12*

Honorable William J. Clinton
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Americans for a New Irish Agenda (ANIA) is a broad coalition of Irish-Americans and others deeply committed to the United States' playing an active and constructive role in helping secure a just, lasting and peaceful resolution of the troubles in Northern Ireland. ANIA was formed in order to promote the implementation of the agenda which you presented to the Irish-American community while campaigning for President in 1992. Our group is limited in its scope to the advocacy of the specific commitments which you made - commitments we believe were wise and appropriate when made and equally needing implementation now that you are President.

We have watched with dismay as your support for our common agenda has waned during your first year in office. Our dismay was heightened to feelings of anger and betrayal as we read your October 30, 1993 letter to Mayor David Dinkins. How could it be that a person who "would be totally harmless to let in..." in April 1992, now must be excluded in the inflammatory language of the Dinkins letter? Frankly, the expressed basis of your denial of a visa to Gerry Adams suggests a failure of those advising you on these matters to understand the enormous changes in the situation in Northern Ireland.

When Gerry Adams was denied a visa for the first time during your Administration in April, 1993, many of us were hopeful that this decision was more a reaction to other immigration crises rather than a renunciation of the common sense position you took on the campaign trail. We looked forward to a new opportunity for a new visa application in a less volatile context. Despite the rhetoric of the Dinkins letter, we are still hopeful of doing so.

The last several months have revealed the absolutely critical role of Gerry Adams and Sinn Fein in any constructive process for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland. The decision by John Hume to engage Gerry Adams, in substantive discussions about a

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framework for the cessation of violence and the beginning of a broader peace initiative, demonstrates that the views of Mr. Adams and the people he represents are an integral part of any settlement. Further, the discussions show that John Hume believes that achieving an end to violence requires affirmatively engaging the leaders of Sinn Fein in order to define the elements which will be required for that cessation to occur. Since the conclusion of the first round of the Hume-Adams talks, Mr. Hume has aggressively asserted his belief that an initiative based on the results of his discussions with Adams can lead directly to a cease-fire and broader political dialogue than any that has occurred in the past twenty-five years.

Similarly, despite their rhetoric disavowing any willingness to talk to Sinn Fein or the IRA, the British Government has now admitted that such contacts have been going on regularly, at least since last February, and probably for much longer. Once again, the record of these conversations released by the British makes clear that the British Government believes that such contacts are essential to promoting the steps which will lead to peace.

In this context, the Dinkins letter recitation of tired State Department rhetoric is curiously out of date. Permitting Gerry Adams to come to the United States and articulate his vision of the steps needed to bring about peace in Northern Ireland no more signals a support for terrorism and violence than does John Hume's discussions with Adams or the ongoing British contacts with Sinn Fein and the IRA. A visa for Mr. Adams, like these contacts, would signal an active interest in understanding the full scope of what would be required to achieve the "freedom, democracy and human rights...in Northern Ireland" which you called for at the Irish-American Forum in April, 1992.

Your Administration's continuing application of visa denial policies exercised by the Reagan and Bush State Departments is contrary to the spirit of the Immigration Act of 1990. It ignores the dramatic movement of Sinn Fein to new political positions and the initiation of explicit contacts between Sinn Fein and the SDLP, the Irish Government and the British Government. It also lacks the good sense which you exhibited when a candidate in promising a visa to Gerry Adams. The fact that he was a member of Parliament at that time was not the key issue. Then, as now, he leads a constituency which must be brought to the negotiating table if there is to be a just and peaceful resolution of the troubles.

We believe that recent events have created a unique window of opportunity for progress toward peace in Northern Ireland. This belief renews our concern regarding the Administration's position on an Adams visa. It also increases the urgency of moving on the appointment of a special envoy.

DEC-26-1993 23:52PM FROM CONSL OF IRELAND

TO EMBASSY DC

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As you said in April, 1992, in the past the U.S. has been "a little too reluctant to relay our interest in a positive way" on the issues in Northern Ireland. This same reluctance continues. There is no doubt that there are many in Ireland and Britain, including many governmental leaders, who are wary of an affirmative U.S. role. However, anyone familiar with the past twenty-five years of history in Northern Ireland can be assured that it will take help from outside of Britain and Ireland to assist the parties in reaching a politically viable agreement. A special envoy need not be charged to accomplish too much too fast. A special envoy will make clear in a concrete fashion your personal willingness to be of help. The longstanding period of being "too reluctant" must end and a new period of active American interest in promoting a just and peaceful settlement in Northern Ireland should begin.

We took your campaign promises in the same serious way in which you made them. We have defended you against the charge that they were mere rhetoric to gather votes. The situation now demands that they be implemented, not to prove that you were sincere, but to achieve the beneficial effect of the actions which you promised to take. Please reaffirm our confidence in your leadership on this issue by signalling a willingness to grant a visa for Gerry Adams in the near future and by selecting a special envoy ready and willing to provide American assistance to the current opportunity for progress toward peace in Northern Ireland.

Sincerely,


Bruce A. Morrison
Chairman

BAM:cag

cc: Anthony Lake, NSC
Nancy Soderberg, NSC