



**An Chartlann Náisiúnta**  
**National Archives**

**Reference Code:** 2021/48/116

**Creator(s):** Department of Foreign Affairs

**Accession Conditions:** Open

**Copyright:** National Archives, Ireland.  
May only be reproduced with  
the written permission of the  
Director of the National  
Archives.

Call by U. S. Ambassador

19 January, 1994

1. The U. S. Ambassador, Ms. Jean Kennedy-Smith, called to see me today at her request. She was accompanied by Mr. Jim Glenn.
2. The Ambassador asked for an update on the current situation in relation to the Declaration and the reactions of Sinn Féin. I gave her a fairly full account of the most recent developments, including the central points in the Taoiseach's and Tanaiste's recent statements, the discussions between Mr. Hume and Mr. Major, etc.
3. At the end of our meeting the question arose of the Adams' visa application. I said we were aware of the U. S. regulations in relation to visa applications by persons suspected of terrorist involvement, and we understood perfectly that these were legal conditions which could not likely be set aside. We were aware also of the President's remarks in his interview with Conor O' Cleary that the Adams case would be reviewed from time to time in the light of circumstances. We felt that it was basically incumbent on Mr. Adams to give to the U. S. with his application the reasons which would justify the review the President had spoken of, and it was for the Americans themselves to determine whether or not their requirements were met in a given case. On that basis, and on the assumption that involvement in the Conference would be helpful in adding incentive to Sinn Féin on the political path, we were supportive of a visa.
4. I expressed concern however that it did not seem possible to confine the visa to the specific occasion of the Conference

and wondered aloud whether there was any danger that Adams would use the visa for wide-ranging propaganda or even fundraising purposes. The Ambassador thought that Mr. Bill Flynn and Senator Kennedy had too much at stake in their support of the visa to allow that to happen. She was unsure whether or not the visa would be granted, saying that the Los Angeles earthquake in particular had put off consideration of the matter.

5. On the issue of a possible contact with Adams by the U. S. Administration, I suggested that should be done in a low-key way which did not offer propaganda opportunities or give disproportionate status to Mr. Adams. I thought that contact to clarify a visa application might be the least conspicuous way of doing this.

*Sh*

Sean O hUiginn  
19 January, 1994

cc PSS  
PST  
Mr F Kennedy  
Ambassador in the  
Sh  
19/1