



An Chartlann Náisiúnta
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Remarks for media attribution by Department of Foreign
Affairs Spokesman 30 January :

"The Tánaiste has been informed of the positive decision of the US authorities to issue a visa under certain conditions to Mr. Adams which will enable him to travel to New York to address the serious issues involved in the peace process in Northern Ireland. The Tánaiste fully shares the hope of President Clinton that this decision will help to advance the peace process".

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cc PST;
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30 JANUARY 1994

TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON
FOR G CORR FROM AMBASSADOR

GERRY ADAMS VISA

1. As reported by phone, the White House telephoned me this (Sunday) afternoon to convey formally that a visa waiver had been issued to enable Mr Adams to attend Tuesday's Conference in New York. The visa will be of strictly limited duration, will prohibit any direct or indirect fundraising and will be limited to a 25 mile radius of the New York Conference. A copy of the formal White House statement is attached.
2. The British were informed via a telephone call to Rod Lyne in the Prime Minister's Office. They seemed resigned to the decision and, while clearly not welcoming it, hoped it would help the process.
3. In conveying the decision, the White House asked that, if at all possible, we should use whatever contacts were available to emphasise to Adams that, if there is not a positive movement forward by him, the Administration's position will harden quickly. This will also happen if the Administration is embarrassed in any way during the Adams visit.

4. Senator Kennedy's staff also made this same point to the Embassy this afternoon. They said they will be underscoring it in forceful terms to Adams.
5. The White House also said they would very much welcome it if Dublin could say something positive about the decision. They subsequently expressed great appreciation for the Tánaiste's comments which (thanks to your prompt and helpful calls) I was able to pass on to them.
6. Finally, the White House also emphasised how difficult the decision was for them; the issue, they emphasised, was not at its core one of British pressure - though this was very considerable - but of "domestic terrorism politics". In the circumstances, the decision was a very major one from the U.S. perspective.