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EMBASSY OF IRELAND

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WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008

SECURE FAX NO: *46*

5 OCTOBER 1994

TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON
FOR A/SEC O HUIGINN FROM M COLLINS

PST
PSS
Mr Murray
Mr H. Haney
Mr T Dalton
SAH
4/11

The following is my note of Gerry Adams' call on the Embassy today, and also of a subsequent conversation that the Ambassador had with Ken Maginnis.

COURTESY CALL BY SINN FEIN PRESIDENT ADAMS

1. By arrangement, the Sinn Féin President, Gerry Adams, made a private courtesy call on the Embassy today and met with Ambassador Gallagher and myself. Adams was accompanied by Ms Mairéad Keane and Mr Ciaran Staunton. (Richard Mc Auley also accompanied Adams to the Embassy).
2. Throughout the call, Adams was friendly and extremely courteous. He seemed tired as a result of the hectic pace of his itinerary but was clearly pleased with the way in which his visit has gone to date. The following points that arose will be of interest:
 - On the issue of "permanence", Adams said that he was going to try and look at language (perhaps in the context of remarks he is scheduled to make later today) to see what further he might be able to say that would be helpful. He said that the Administration had raised this with him at yesterday's meeting in the State Department

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and he was conscious of their concerns, and wished to be helpful. He thought that there was language in National Security Adviser Lake's letter to him (expressing hope that the ceasefire remains "for good and irreversible") which could be looked at.

- On economic issues, Adams referred to the Springvale project in Belfast of which Sinn Féin is supportive. He said that 90% of the ideas regarding Springvale came originally from his party. He also spoke of the importance of the IFI reaching out to marginalised and deprived areas and welcomed any contacts that the Fund might be able to make in order to help advance this further.

- Sinn Féin was especially concerned about prisoners in the United States. They handed over a list of these, a copy of which is attached. They had raised the issue at the State Department yesterday but only, at this stage, to have it on the table. They went on to suggest that, if Ireland signed the repatriation of Prisoners Convention, a bilateral agreement with the U.S. might then be possible; that would be very helpful. The Ambassador indicated that we would be happy, as was our policy, to maintain consular contact with any, or all, of these prisoners, if they made a request to the appropriate Consulate. Adams welcomed this.

- Adams referred in very general terms to the possibility of setting up an office in the United States (Washington?) which would be broader than just Sinn Féin; this idea had apparently been suggested at one stage by the Morrison group on a visit to Belfast. He was vague on the status of the Sinn Féin address on 7th Avenue in

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New York which features on the letterhead of the paper they handed over to the Administration yesterday (already faxed to you). He indicated that they would be reflecting further on the office idea, particularly in the course of future visits.

- As regards his visa status and the fundraising issue, he appeared to accept US signals that these issues could be resolved over time.
 - On his television appearance last night with Ken Maginnis, Adams said he welcomed the fact that Maginnis had come to Washington for the occasion. He added, however, that Maginnis was as unfriendly off camera as he was during the live interview.
 - While not pressing on the issue, Adams expressed the hope of a continuing relationship with the Embassy and Consulates in the States.
3. The call lasted about 15/20 minutes, and was, as indicated above, in quite general terms. With the exception of Eamonn Mallie, who remained outside the Embassy, there was no other accompanying media, and no camera crew.

CONVERSATION WITH KEN MAGINNIS


4. Subsequently, the Ambassador had a 15 minute telephone conversation with Ken Maginnis who was in Washington for the Larry King Live programme. The exchange was extremely friendly and warm. Maginnis said that he was very pleased with his performance last night, adding that he was particularly happy that the debate was serious and dignified, unlike the acrimonious TV exchange recently between Adams and Mates.

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5. In a general discussion, Maginnis said he had no idea what Jim Molyneaux's personal plans were for the future. Apart from Jim Nicholson and Jeffrey Donaldson, Maginnis said that he had few other friends in the party since Harold McCusker died. He found Trimble - whom he described as a dour character - Ross and Taylor to be quite unfriendly.
6. Maginnis agreed, in principle, that it was important to restart a dialogue with Dublin but felt this would not be possible for some time yet.
7. The Ambassador and Mr Maginnis, who are old friends, agreed to get together privately during his next visit to Washington.


M Collins

5 October 1994