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WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008

FAX NO: 458

4 OCTOBER 1994

TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON
FOR G CORR FROM M COLLINS

*POST, 7 July
PSS
A/Sec of the Gov
Dr Mairgeath
Secretary
Comptroller A.I.
Embassy Dublin*

RE: VISIT OF ALLIANCE LEADER DR JOHN ALDERDICE

You will wish to be aware that Alliance leader Dr John Alderdice left Washington this afternoon. His activities today involved a series of pretty routine appointments on the Hill. However, a meeting which he sought with Vice President Gore and with the NSC did not materialize, much to Dr Alderdice's disappointment. I understand that he pressed very hard for a meeting with the Vice President, particularly in the light of the telephone call from the Vice President to Adams yesterday morning. However, the White House took the view that the timing of Alderdice's visit was something that was decided without consultation with the US and that the notice requesting a meeting was inadequate.

END

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES: (1)

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FAX NO: 457

4 OCTOBER 1994

TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON
FOR GERRY CORR FROM NOEL KILKENNY

RE: VISIT OF DR ALDERDICE

1. Dr Alderdice spoke this morning at the National Press Club on the subject of "the IRA cease-fire and its implications for peace in Northern Ireland". Aside from the accompanying British officials, the attendance consisted of 8 reporters and four journalism students from American University.
2. The moderator of the event, Peter Hickman, thanked Dr Alderdice for coming and the British Embassy for making it possible! Referring to the luncheon address to be given later by Adams, Hickman described Alderdice's contribution as a "pre-emptive strike"!!
3. Dr Alderdice began by tracing the Alliance Party's role in the round-table talks, its support for the Joint Declaration and its strong welcome for the cease-fire. He said that at a meeting he had had with Major last week he had urged him to forget the semantics surrounding the word "permanent" and to accept Sinn Fein at face value. He added, however, that since Sinn Fein denies control over the IRA, the British and Irish Governments should deal with Adams solely as a political leader and issues like the release of prisoners etc should not be discussed with him. He had urged Major to deal directly with the IRA to ensure that the military hardware was removed as a threat to peace.

4. Referring to the fact that this was his third visit to the US this year, he said that the aims of his current visit were

- i) to update his contacts in the Administration and Congress on recent developments;
- ii) to discuss the economic rehabilitation of Northern Ireland especially in the context of the many "exaggerated claims" from fellow politicians on the levels of economic assistance which the US might provide; and
- iii) to urge the Administration to proceed carefully in relation to Northern Ireland and "not to intrude in a family quarrel".

5. He said he had no objection to the Administration meeting in Washington with Adams but was disturbed by Tony Lake's letter which promised on-going contact in Belfast and Dublin. He said it was too early to talk to Sinn Fein "in someone else's jurisdiction".

6. Responding to a question from Conor O'Clery about the need for some "family quarrels" to have the benefit of a counsellor, a role O'Clery likened to the American role in Northern Ireland, Dr Alderdice said that in all his years as a psychiatrist he had found that while many family quarrels benefitted from the intervention of a counsellor, this only worked when the intervention was sought and welcomed by both sides.

7. Prompted by a question from the London Daily Mail, he spoke at length about the continuing "knee-capping" etc carried out by the IRA in Belfast and of Sinn Fein's refusal to disassociate itself from such "brutalities".

8. He returned a number of times to the issue of the IRA's arsenal which, he said, was sufficiently large to sustain a campaign of one bomb per day for six years. He said that most of this ordinance was stored south of the border and suggested that some of it was being moved around "under cover of the cease-fire". He also called on the loyalists to cease their campaign.

9. He said that while Northern Ireland should benefit from the peace dividend, there should be no political dividend for Sinn Fein - people should not be rewarded for desisting from murdering their neighbours.

END

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES: (3)

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