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Mr. Donohue
SECRETARY

Date : 25 September, 1994
To : DFA, HQ/Embassy Washington/CGNY
For : Mr. G. Corr/Mr. M. Collins/Mr. D. Brangan
From : Conor O'Riordan
Pages : 14 (incl. cover)

Subj : Gerry Adams in Boston

Gerry Adams received an enthusiastic welcome in Boston from longtime supporters and from mainstream Boston Irish and Irish-Americans. Media interest was considerable. Local TV and radio gave his arrival "Top Story" status.

Press Coverage (10 pages) is attached. Kevin Cullen's article in the Sunday Globe accurately reports the arrival press conference, the Kennedy reception at the Park Plaza and the mood of the Boston Irish community. Both the Globe and the Herald had to search out Mary Ward VP of Republican Sinn Fein for a dissenting voice.

The Kennedy reception at the Park Plaza was the main event of Day 1. The reception which was paid for by prominent Boston businessman and political fundraiser John Cullinane was very much focused on Kennedy's reelection bid. The attendance numbered about 500 with mainstream Boston Irish and Irish-American's well represented.

Bruce Morrison introduced the Senator speaking of his decisive role in convincing the President to issue a visa to Adams. Recalling the Senators work on the Congressional Immigration Sub-Committee he suggested that the Donnelly, Morrison and Schumer visa programmes should all be renamed Kennedy visas.

The Senator paraphrasing the late Robert Kennedy spoke of the ceasefire as a "ripple of hope" which made everything possible including an end to the age old Irish struggle. He said he believed Adams was committed to peace, that President Clinton was really engaged on the Irish question, and that he had shown this by resisting all the naysayers in the State Department and extraordinary opposition from many quarters. The Senator, who introduced Gerry Adams, referred to his reelection and promised that Gerry Adams would always receive a warm welcome in the U.S. "at least for the next six years".

Gerry Adams praised the Senator for his courageous support. The President's decision on the visa, he said, showed that the marginal and the demonised in Ireland have powerful friends in the U.S. The Kennedys, he said, represent those people who were driven from Ireland by famine or English oppression yet who ended up in the White House proving that when the Irish get a chance there are no limits to their achievements. He contrasted his welcome in the U.S. to the fact that he is barred from the U.K. I want to go there, he said, not to occupy Britain but to argue my case with people who need to know. This opportunity for peace, he said, quoting the Taoiseach, is the best opportunity since partition but P. M. Major must be convinced to seize the opportunity. Whatever form of democracy in Ireland, he said, is agreed upon the people of Ireland have a right to govern themselves. The Unionists, he said, were as much a part of Ireland as he was. He said the sense of hope and expectation at this time was palpable in N.I. and he was not going to let his people down nor were the Kennedy's.

A receiving line (the Senator, Mrs Kennedy, Gerry Adams and Bruce Morrison) formed after the speeches and many of those present eagerly sought their photograph with Gerry Adams and his autograph. Sinn Fein supporters handed out professionally packaged promotional material (sent to you under separate cover) containing a guide to the Sinn Fein Peace Proposal "Towards a Lasting Peace in Ireland" and various speeches, statements and reports. Journalists but no media cameras were admitted to the reception.