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Reference Code: 2021/96/10

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*DSS
Alfred...
Dalton
Coun...
SECRETARY
Embassy London*

1 MARCH 1994

(see P 2) to

Domestic

TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON

Mr 2/2/94

FOR G CORR FROM M COLLINS

(TOTAL NO OF PAGES: 2)

*c.c. At...
his...
[highlighted]*

VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER MAJOR TO WASHINGTON (REPORT NO. 2)

1. As you are aware, Prime Minister Major and President Clinton were in Pittsburgh last evening during which they looked at some urban redevelopment projects and had a private dinner together. Later, Major overnighted at the White House and had breakfast with the President.
2. The issue of Northern Ireland arose on several occasions, both in their private meetings and in public encounters with the media. Sources in the White House said that the President had himself taken the initiative to raise the matter with Mr Major. It is clear that the days have gone when the President of the United States and the British Prime Minister can meet without the issue of Northern Ireland arising in some form.
3. It was also quite clear that the British had decided not to revisit, at least in public, their disappointment about the Adams visa decision and to minimise the tensions that arose from the granting of the visa. Instead, Major emphasised continuously that the important thing now was to look forward and see how to produce a solution to the Northern Ireland problem.

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4. On arrival in Pittsburgh, the President said that he would be discussing with Mr Major the "political courage and the vision shown by Prime Minister Major and Prime Minister Reynolds of Ireland in working for peace in Northern Ireland together". Clinton said that he strongly supported the Joint Declaration of 15th December adding that the "historic Joint Declaration offers new hope for the goal of peace and as the President of this country, a country full of Americans of British descent, and full of Americans of Irish descent, I again urge an end to the use of violence as a means of solving political problems and achieving political aims. It has no place in that effort." Again at the White House this morning President Clinton reaffirmed the support of the United States for the Joint Declaration "for the process it envisions, and for an end to violence. I wish the Prime Minister and Prime Minister Reynolds well as they seek to carry this out".
5. On several occasions during the visit the President defended his decision to grant Adams a visa. While in Pittsburgh, he said that it was too soon to tell whether granting the visa had helped promote peace in Northern Ireland adding "I hope it will. It's too soon to say." At the White House today he said, "I don't think we can draw a conclusion yet about whether it will advance the peace process. We made an objective call that we ought to try to encourage them (the IRA) to move towards the Joint Declaration and try and make peace". Asked whether Adams would get another visa in the future, the President apparently said that the ball was now in Adams' court.
6. In the presence of President Clinton, and in response to a question about Adams, Mr Major said "I think everyone has seen what has happened at the Ard Fheis. I think the important issue is to look forward and see how we produce a solution to the Northern Ireland problem. I'm not interested in looking back and I think as one looks forward, one has to look at the very remarkable expression of opinion that we've seen over the last few days of support for the Joint Declaration. Now, that Joint Declaration is there. It is now a living fact. It is a series of principles upon which we hope to base a solution to the problems that have bedeviled Northern Ireland for too long. Now, that is the main issue that I want to address, and those are the issues that we've been discussing."

END