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Reference Code: 2021/96/10

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2 MARCH 1994

TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON
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RE: BRITISH BRIEFING ON VISIT OF PM MAJOR TO WASHINGTON -
NORTHERN IRELAND ASPECT

1. The Deputy Head of Mission of the British Embassy, Mr Jeremy Greenstock, this morning briefed EU colleagues on PM Major's visit to Washington. I have reported separately on the international issues.
2. In relation to Northern Ireland, Greenstock told colleagues that there had been a good deal of particularly inaccurate reporting regarding the special relationship in the light of the Adams visa decision. He said that the President had been "pretty angry" about some of this reporting in the British media and he wanted to make it quite clear that it was "much too transient" an issue to affect the basic relationship between Britain and the U.S.
3. Interestingly, Greenstock said that the President did not give the Prime Minister any specific commitment not to give another visa to Adams. However, he suggested that the US "will be cautious" in the future. Greenstock said that in their encounters, the President and Major had agreed to put the Adams issue behind them - there was thus "no raking over the coals". He emphasized the President's support for the Joint Declaration.

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4. In separate contact with the White House last night, Ms Nancy Soderberg, Special Assistant to the President, said that during his visit, it was "important that Major hear that it wasn't just Clinton's staff but the President himself who decided on the policy for the Adams visa". She confirmed that as the Adams decision was "a huge issue of disagreement" neither the President nor the Prime Minister got into it in detail.

ENDS