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Reference Code: 2021/96/10

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WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008

SECURE FAX NO: # 77

20 SEPTEMBER 1994

TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON

FOR A/SEC O HUIGINN FROM M COLLINS

M. Wala
M. Collins

PST
PSS
Mr R Murray
Dr P Hume
Mr T Dalton
YE
21/9
[Signature]
21/9

RE: VISIT OF JOHN HUME TO WASHINGTON (REPORT NO 2)

- 1. SDLP leader John Hume had a further series of meetings here today including a meeting at the White House with Vice President Gore which President Clinton called in on.

White House Meeting/VP Gore

- 2. Vice President Gore said he was very excited about developments in Ireland. Hume responded by saying that US support was crucial and that the visa decision on Adams last January had made a huge contribution. He said that the international response to the ceasefire had been incredible. In response to a question from Gore as to how he would assess the British mood, Hume said that they were cautious but "they know that it is all over". The British problem, he said, was the Party Conference on the 15th of October after which he expected Major to move swiftly. In reply to a question from the Vice President, Hume suggested that in approving Adams's visa for his forthcoming visit, the US was "doing the right thing".
- 3. Hume said that the Unionist still had a "laager" mentality. However, he detected an improving mood in that community in the last week. They were now beginning to know that no secret deals had been done.
- 4. Hume emphasised the importance of the Unionists and Nationalists jointly exploring the resource of Irish America

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for economic purposes. He went on to give some ideas which he had that the United States might initiate on the economic front, including offering Northern Ireland and the border areas "Most Favoured Nation" status and having the US Federal Procurement Agency source some of its requirements in Northern Ireland.

President Clinton

5. In the course of the meeting, President Clinton called in and stayed for 10 to 15 minutes. Hume (who did most of the talking) invited the President to visit Northern Ireland and particularly the UN University of which the Tip O'Neill Peace Studies Chair is part. Hume said it would be good if the President could open this. Although the President responded enthusiastically, there was no specific commitment. Hume took the opportunity to mention to the President some of his ideas on economic regeneration.
6. The President asked Hume how Adams now stood vis-a-vis the IRA. Hume responded by saying that the meeting with the Taoiseach had been crucial. Adams had committed himself totally and absolutely to the democratic process and to the participation and agreement of the Unionist community. Hume shared with the President his views on the Unionist and Nationalist mindset emphasising that the crucial outcome was not victory but agreement.
7. In response to a question from the President, Hume said that the United States could play an important role in reassuring the Unionists and in emphasising the benefit of both communities working together particularly on the economic front. Such working together would help the healing process. The President said that the US would continue to do what they could. "We will stay with it" said the President. He also said that he wanted to go to Ireland again, having been there 25 years ago.
8. At the conclusion of the meeting, Hume handed over a letter to the President from the President of the European Parliament inviting President Clinton to address the European Parliament at some stage in the future.

Meeting with National Security Adviser Lake

9. Following the meeting with the President and Vice President, Hume met briefly with National Security Adviser Lake and Staff

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Director Nancy Soderberg (who also attended the meeting with the President/Vice President). Lake expressed his joy at the turn of events in Ireland. Hume insisted that if it were not for him (Lake) and the Administration, and the Adams visa decision, there would not have been this outcome.

10. Hume asked Lake particularly to convey to the Unionists the fact that in visiting the United States now and over the last 25 years, he (Hume) had never tried to undermine them. He also said that the Administration should urge the Unionists to pursue a solution which respected both traditions.

Possible Paisley Visit

11. Soderberg mentioned that Paisley had now indicated to the United States that he wanted to come here next month. She wondered what level of attention he should get. Hume said that Paisley's support was in decline and that he should not be given too much attention. He said that it was quite understandable for the two main parties (the SDLP and the UUP) to gain access to the White House but the lesser parties did not have to achieve this.

Adams Visit

12. Soderberg indicated also that it was now the Administration's intention not to meet Adams at the White House during his forthcoming visit. She expressed concern about Sinn Fein fund-raising saying that this was still being raised by Adams. Hume insisted that everyone should have to uphold US law in relation to fund-raising (registration as agents, etc) and Sinn Fein should be no exception.

Other Meetings

13. Earlier in the day, Hume met with Senator Kennedy and later on with some members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Senators Biden, Dodd, Sarbanes and Pell attended this latter meeting. This evening Hume met with the Speaker and members of the Friends of Ireland.

ENDS