



An Chartlann Náisiúnta
National Archives

Reference Code: 2021/96/29

Creator(s): Department of the Taoiseach

Accession Conditions: Open

Copyright: National Archives, Ireland.
May only be reproduced with
the written permission of the
Director of the National
Archives.

c. PST
PSS, Friday
M. Mansary

Mr. DeLoe
Mr. Foxe

Murray
Walton
Fitzgerald
John. Linn
Conse...



AMBASADU NA HEIREANN
(002) 402-3636

EMBASSY OF IRELAND
2204 MASSACHUSETTS AVE. N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008

[Handwritten signature]
Dr 3/2/94

SECURE FAX NO: _____

2 FEBRUARY 1994

TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON

FOR ASST SECRETARY O HUGGINN FROM MICHAEL COLLINS

RE: JOEY HUME'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

1. In the course of today, I accompanied SDLP Leader John Hume to a series of Administration and Hill engagements in Washington which we helped arrange on his behalf. These included a lunch on Capitol Hill with Speaker Foley and meetings with Vice President Gore, National Security Advisor Tony Lake, Chairman of the Friends of Ireland Frank McCloskey, Senators Kennedy, Dodd and Moynihan and Congressmen Dave Obey and Joe Kennedy. Tomorrow, he will have a meeting with the Senate Foreign Relations committee and with the State Department (Under Secretary Peter Turnoff).
2. In the course of all his meetings both on the Hill and with the Administration, Hume emphasized that the granting of a visa to Adams for the purposes of the New York Conference was the right decision for the Administration to have made. We said that it would help Adams sell the Declaration to the more hard-line elements in Sinn Fein/IRA. To several he mentioned private comments attributed to Adams' accompanying PR man (McGuigan?) who when asked whether Sinn Fein would accept the declaration said confidently "it will be okay; it will work out". He was critical of the British Government for its continuing failure to clarify the Declaration - "if the British could talk in secret with Adams for 3 months, why couldn't they meet him for three hours to give him the necessary clarifications". Hume also expressed the conviction that if Adams failed to deliver on the Declaration, Sinn Fein

would become isolated.

3. The meeting with Vice President Gore lasted about 15 minutes. From various indications it seemed that the Administration were equally as anxious to be able to say that they had met Hume as of course Hume was to say that he had met such a senior member of the Administration. I attach a copy of the statement, agreed by Hume, which the White House will issue tomorrow (for some reason they have chosen not to issue it this evening as originally intended).
4. Gore's disposition throughout was friendly, but serious. He said that the Administration had taken a gamble in issuing a visa. He described Hume's input and influence on the issuing of the visa as "vital". In the meeting which Hurd had with him yesterday the British were angry. Gore asked Hurd what the British would have done in a similar situation in the light of the type of advice that they had received from Hume. Gore said that he hoped that the visa decision would help the peace process but he expressed disappointment and a sense of let down that Adams had not responded in a way which might have been more helpful to the Administration during his visit. There seemed to me to be a clear implication in Gore's tone and disposition that the issue of a visa in the future could not in any way be assumed unless Adams moved on his position. He asked Hume whether there was anything encouraging in Adams presentation which could be pointed to. Hume said that while there may not have been that much in what Adams said his comment that "this generation of Irish republicans is going to take the gun out of Irish politics" was significant. Hume made the same point to others in the course of the day. (Incidentally, while waiting to go into the meeting with the VP we were joined in the lobby by the British Ambassador who seemed somewhat taken aback by Hume's presence in the White House. The Ambassador was there to meet Administration officials on other issues.)
5. The meeting with Anthony Lake, the National Security Adviser, was also attended by Nancy Soderberg and Jane Holl both of whom were of course very involved in the visa decision. Lake expressed his deep admiration for Hume but was clearly concerned about the amount of attention that Adams had received in the media. He said that Adams was standing "20 ft tall" at the moment. Hume insisted that the decision to issue the visa was the correct one, a reassurance that Lake, and others in the room, seemed to appreciate. He said that he had been getting a lot of calls critical of the decision.
6. Indicative of Lake's concern was a query to Hume as to whether the Administration should not now reach out to the

Unionists - "should we be having visible meetings with them", Lake asked. Hume chose to be non-committal on this. He undertook to keep the White House informed of any future contact he had with the IRA. He also referred to the peace envoy idea saying what was really required was an economic envoy. He said that such an envoy could be guaranteed to meet with acceptance by all sides. Lake said that the US could not "interject" itself into the NI situation but that "when we can be helpful we would like to be so". Hume also said that if Sinn Fein rejected the peace Declaration he had some ideas how to proceed from there. He suggested that he had thought this thing through though he did not reveal what these ideas were.

7. Hume had a private meeting with the Speaker, over lunch, for the best part of two hours. He was very pleased with the exchange. He suggested that while being against a visa, it had not been Foley's intention to be so visibly and publicly identified on the negative side of the debate. Hume said that he had wished to speak to the Speaker some weeks ago about this issue but did not succeed in making contact. He said that he had therefore left it to Senator Kennedy, to whom Hume had given a "very full briefing" on his views on the Adams visa issue at Tip O'Neill's funeral, to fill in the Speaker.
8. During other contacts on the Hill it was mentioned that Eurd had a particularly stormy meeting with senate Majority Leader Mitchell who was one of those who added his name in support of the Adams visa. Laughingly, Senator Kennedy said that he would describe the exchange more fully to Hume on another occasion!. More than one Congressman said that the British case against issuing a visa for Adams had been seriously damaged by the secret talks that the British themselves had with Sinn Fein.
9. Yesterday evening Hume was guest at a reception, hosted at short notice by the Committee for New Ireland, which was attended by about 50 people from the Hill, and elsewhere.

end