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cc'd: Mr. G. CORR.

SECURE FAX

5 September 1994

TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON
FOR A/SEC O HUIGINN FROM COLLINS

cc PST
 PSS; F. Foley
 M. Mansergh
 F. Murray
 J. Dalton
 J. O'Shea
 A. L. Linn
 Counsellors A1

Conversation with White House - Ceasefire wording

1. In a conversation with Nancy Soderberg of the NSC on Friday afternoon she mentioned that the British had called on her that afternoon at the request of PM Major and "formally" asked the White House to use its good offices to encourage Sinn Fein to be more specific about the permanence of the ceasefire.

2. The British told Soderberg that they did not expect Sinn Fein to use the word "permanent" but made it clear that they would welcome movement by Adams, perhaps during a press conference/interview, on this issue. The British said that they needed this in order to move forward with the loyalists, which they were anxious to do. Soderberg said that she would do what she could and told me that she intended conveying a message of White House interest to Sinn Fein. She was not specific how this might be done although she mentioned that it could be via the contact that was expected over the weekend on the question of the extension of the Cahill visa or through one of the Irish-Americans who have been actively engaged with Sinn Fein. In any event Soderberg said that they were anxious to be as responsive to the British approach as possible given that it emanated from PM Major's office and given also the fact that the British have not been in the habit, up to now, of engaging them in this particular way.