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ROINN AN TAOISIGH

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CONFIDENTIAL

U.S. Visa for Gerry Adams

The British Ambassador telephoned twice this morning in this regard. In his first call, he indicated that he had instructions to convey his Prime Minister's concerns, further to our brief discussion about the issue at Lunch on Thursday last.

I confirmed that the Taoiseach would not be back in the office until tomorrow afternoon and that I had conveyed the gist of the message, which he had given me on Thursday, to Mr. McCarthy, who was accompanying the Taoiseach in Mexico, for transmission to the Taoiseach personally.

The Ambassador telephoned again about this to say that, following further instructions which he had received, he had been asked to make the following points to us:

- the British wished to reiterate their total opposition to the issue of a visa as already made clear to us;
- great care should be taken not to send the wrong signals to the Provisionals at this time;
- the British view was that it would not be helpful if Gerry Adams was "strengthened" through contact with NORAID on the ground in the US;
- that granting of the visa request would be sending a wrong signal internationally; and
- that issue of a visa should be a "carrot for the future".

In making these points, the Ambassador said that the British Government fully recognised that the decision in this case was, of course, one for the US authorities. They, for their part, were anxious that we would be on the same side (as the British) on the issue. He added that he understood that Rod Lyon had spoken to Dr. Mansergh in this regard yesterday. I said that I was not aware of that contact. I told the Ambassador that I would convey the message which he had given to my Authorities.

FM

Frank Murray,
18 January, 1994.

- cc. Assistant Secretary S. O'hUiginn, Department of Foreign Affairs
Dr. M. Mansergh
Assistant Secretary B. McCarthy (on return)
Mr. P. Nolan

*had he been
FM 11/1/94*

*Doiseach
(on return)
Do see
Mansergh
18
1
94*