



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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TALKING POINTS FOR GERRY ADAMS:

(Sent by Washington to Embassy Dublin)

-- WE RECOGNIZE THAT YOU AND MARTIN MCGUINNESS HAVE EXERCISED GREAT PERSONAL COURAGE AND HAVE TAKEN REAL RISKS FOR PEACE. THE CEASEFIRE WAS AN HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENT, AND ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT STEPS OF THE PAST 25 YEARS.

-- THESE EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT AND ENSURE A CONTINUED CEASEFIRE ARE PRAISEWORTHY. BUT THE CEASEFIRE MUST BE BUILT UPON BY ALL SIDES.

-- IN ADDITION TO SUBSEQUENT STEPS THAT OTHERS, INCLUDING THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, MAY TAKE, WE FEEL SINN FEIN ALSO MUST BE PREPARED TO TAKE ADDITIONAL CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES TO ENHANCE THE CEASEFIRE. THESE CAN BE UNILATERAL STEPS OR STEPS WORKED OUT IN CONCERT WITH LOYALIST PARTIES.

-- SINN FEIN AND LOYALIST PARTIES HAVE KEY ROLES TO PLAY IN BRINGING ABOUT A SITUATION WHERE UNIONIST PARTIES CAN BE PERSUADED TO JOIN EVENTUAL ALL-PARTY TALKS. WE WILL BE MAKING SIMILAR POINTS TO THE LOYALIST PARTIES.

-- NSC ADVISER TONY LAKE MADE CLEAR TO YOU IN HIS MEETING ON MARCH 14 THAT THE ADMINISTRATION EXPECTED SINN FEIN TO ADDRESS DECOMMISSIONING SERIOUSLY IN ITS MEETINGS WITH BRITISH MINISTERS, AND TO DO SO WITH AN EYE TO AGREEMENT. OUR EXPECTATION OF SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS ON THIS ISSUE WAS A MAJOR CONSIDERATION IN THE DECISION TO LIFT THE BAN ON YOUR ABILITY TO ENGAGE IN FUNDRAISING IN THE U.S.

-- WE EXPECT SINN FEIN REPRESENTATIVES TO ENGAGE BRITISH MINISTERS IN SERIOUS AND SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS AIMED AT ESTABLISHING A PROCESS WHICH COULD BE USED FOR DECOMMISSIONING ALL PARAMILITARY WEAPONS.

-- WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED FORMAL BRIEFINGS FROM THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ON ITS TALKS WITH ANY OF THE PARTIES IN NORTHERN IRELAND. BUT IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT, WHILE SINN FEIN REPRESENTATIVES ACCEPTED A BRITISH PAPER ON DECOMMISSIONING, THEY HAVE NOT HAD SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS ABOUT PRACTICAL MODALITIES FOR DECOMMISSIONING.

-- A LACK OF SERIOUS ENGAGEMENT ON THIS ISSUE AT THIS TIME RAISES SERIOUS DOUBT ABOUT REPUBLICAN ULTIMATE INTENTIONS WITH RESPECT TO DECOMMISSIONING.

-- SINN FEIN CANNOT CONTINUE TO RELY ONLY ON THE CEASEFIRE AS SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO CONVINCE UNIONISTS TO JOIN ALL-PARTY TALKS.

-- RECENT REFERENCES IN SPEECHES TO A POSSIBLE RETURN TO VIOLENCE ARE SINGULARLY UNHELPFUL IN BRINGING ABOUT THE POSITIVE POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE CONDUCTIVE TO PERSUADING UNIONIST PARTIES TO JOIN ALL-PARTY TALKS WHICH INCLUDE SINN FEIN AND LOYALIST PARTIES.

-- WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE SINN FEIN TO CONTINUE MINISTERIAL-LEVEL TALKS WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND ESTABLISH CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES TO ACHIEVE A POSITIVE POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE WHICH EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF A LASTING PEACE FOR THE LIVES OF ALL CITIZENS IN NORTHERN IRELAND.