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SECURE FAX NO: 43

DATE: 1 MARCH 1996
 TO: HQ
 FOR: BRENDAN SCANNELL
 FROM: PAT HENNESSY

COPY TO:

S/S O HUGINN
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 MR. MURRAY
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ADAMS VISA DECISION

1. Reaction on Capital Hill to the Adams visa decision has been positive. As the Ambassador has reported, many of the principal figures took part in a conference call with Tony Lake prior to the announcement of the decision to the press.
2. In response to media enquiries Peter King has stated that he is very pleased with the decision, and that it indicates a recognition of the part of the White House of Adams' importance to the peace process. We understand from King's staff that, following the decision, a Sinn Fein representative called from Belfast to express appreciation for the Congressman's efforts, indicating that the overall response from that quarter was also one of general satisfaction.
3. The reaction of his fellow Ad Hoc Co-Chair, Richie Neal has also been positive, stressing that the decision should encourage Adams to maintain his efforts to secure a reinstatement of the cease-fire by the IRA. The conviction of Irish-American political leaders that the London communique provides a basis for this decision was made clear to the local Sinn Fain representative at their meeting yesterday on Capitol Hill. Their unanimity on this point, linked as it was to warnings of a significant erosion of the Sinn Fein position in the US if this opportunity is not seized, is bound to be taken very seriously.
4. Following that meeting, Chairman Gilman and a number of other Friends and Ad-Hoc leaders were in touch privately with Sinn Fein in Belfast to reiterate the importance of an early decision on the cease-fire. Like the others, Chairman Gilman is publicly welcoming the visa decision, and declining to be drawn into criticism of the attendant restrictions.

03/04/96 08:30

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5. We understand that Senator Moynihan is being advised by his staffer specialising on Irish affairs to avoid further comment on the issue. It will be recalled that the New York media recently gave prominence to his negative views on the visa question. The Senator is, of course, very much his own man and his reactions are not always as predicted.

END**TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES: (2)****TRANSMITTING OPERATOR: MARY SWEENEY**

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PH

cc: AB
+ B. Scannell, HQ / 1/1/96



MS. D. Keane

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 1 March 1996

CONTACT: Friends of Sinn Féin
(202) 331-7886

SINN FEIN WELCOMES **VISA DECISION**

Sinn Féin Representative to the United States, Mairead Keane has welcomed the decision by the U.S. Administration to renew party leader Gerry Adams regular 3 month multi-entry visa. There are no restrictions on the visa.

Speaking from Washington, Ms. Keane said:

"The imperative of any engagement in the United States must now be the rebuilding of the peace process.

Irish America and the White House have played a crucial and positive role in recent years in underpinning the search for peace in Ireland.

The priority for Sinn Féin is to rebuild the peace process and move forward into an inclusive process of negotiations."

Referring to the issue of fundraising Ms. Keane continued:

"Recognizing the political sensitivities of this time Mr. Adams did not seek permission to personally fundraise."

S/S O'Keefe

There is an implication in the Press Release that Sinn Féin may fundraise but without Adams.

A/Keane

S/S

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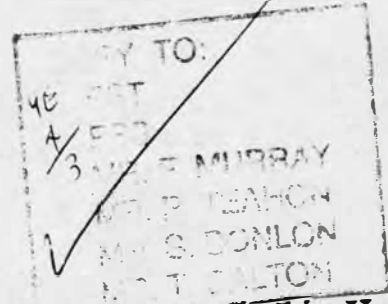


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ADAMS VISA



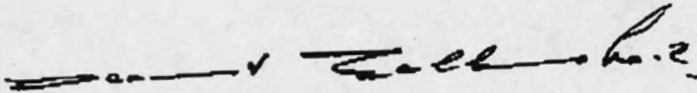
Dear Secretary

1. Tony Lake telephoned again to say that, in all the circumstances, the White House had decided that it would be very difficult to hold a visa decision beyond today. He had a fairly positive conversation with Gerry Adams before taking the final decision, and directing the Press Office to announce its details (we will send on the transcript of this as soon as possible).
2. According to Lake, Adams was pleased at the decision to renew the visa, and at the terms of its renewal. They also reached an understanding on fundraising; this involves Lake accepting Adams' word that he will not fundraise while in the U.S., and making a reference to this effect in his visa application form. As a result, a prohibition on fundraising will not be stamped on the Sinn Féin President's passport.
3. Lake also told Adams that he would not be seeing the President, nor would he be met in the White House. This was the one aspect of the formula about which the Sinn Féin President was particularly unhappy.
4. The White House subsequently held a conference call about the above formula with some prominent people in the Irish community who have been involved in the peace process. According to Lake, they expressed themselves as happy with the decision. The British, for their part, made it clear that the issue was one for decision by the U.S. Authorities.

03/01/98 16:07

5. I also asked Lake if he was able to secure any sense from Adams of whether a breakthrough on the ceasefire seemed likely in the near future. In response, he said that the only inference to this effect was in the context of an Adams question about why a decision on the visa could not be postponed for a few days, given that there could be a ceasefire at that time.

Yours sincerely



Dermot Gallagher
Ambassador

Seán Ó hUiginn Uas
Secretary
Anglo-Irish Division
Department of Foreign Affairs

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ADAMS VISA

Dear Secretary

Tony Lake telephoned this morning to say that the White House were considering making an announcement about the Adams visa some time today. It would be along the lines we have been reporting (i.e. a visa to enable Adams to enter the United States will be issued, perhaps even for a longer period than normal; he would not, however, be allowed to fundraise). Lake said he knew that our view was that the White House should wait until the last possible moment, but he felt that this had already arrived.

I argued strongly against any premature decision, saying I believed there was still some time to go before a decision needed to be taken. The period over the next week could well be critical in terms of helping to restore the ceasefire and I would worry, therefore, about any decision in the meantime which, however unfairly, might be interpreted publicly as weakening Adams' position. I suggested that, at the very least, Lake should discuss the timing of any decision with Adams. He agreed to do this, and said he would maintain contact with me during the day.

Yours sincerely

Dermot Gallagher
Ambassador

Seán Ó hUiginn Uas
Secretary
Anglo-Irish Division
Department of Foreign Affairs