



# An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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*Taoiseach  
12-7-96 copy*

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EMBASSY OF IRELAND  
2234 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008

**IMMEDIATE**

SECURE FAX NO: 149  
DATE: 11 JULY 1996  
TO: HQ  
FOR: SECRETARY O HUIGINN  
PLEASE CC: COLM O FLOINN

COPY TO: *YIS*  
PST *M*  
PSS *7*  
MR. P TEAHON  
MR. S. DONLON  
MR. T. DALTON

FROM: WASHINGTON

FROM: PAT HENNESSY

**DRUMCREE: WHITE HOUSE REACTION**

1. We have kept the NSC briefed on a continuing basis on developments at Drumcree. Mary Ann Peters expressed astonishment and amazement at the decision to allow the march through. She believes the implication for the peace process to be very serious - "it's put the prospect of a cease-fire back a year".
2. However, the official US line will be to express concern at today's developments and to portray the political track, not violence, as the way forward.
3. The initial view conveyed by the British to the White House includes these elements:
  - the decision was taken by the police;
  - it was taken for operational reasons, in view of the expected arrival of 50-60,000 protestors;
  - the consequences of not intervening would have been worse;
  - the decision followed prolonged unsuccessful attempts to reach agreement.
4. We have drawn attention to the statements by the Cardinal and Archbishop Eames that the police action can not be regarded as emanating from any discussions in which the Church leaders were involved.

END

*GL*

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**Secure Fax**

*Taoiseach*

10 July 1996

*The confirmed White  
House pressure on Mr. Adams  
to deliver is helpful*

**DISCUSSION AT WHITE HOUSE**

COPY TO:	<i>46</i>
PST	<i>11</i>
PSS	<i>7</i>
MR. P. TEAHON	
MR. S. DONLON	
MR. T. DALTON	

*Inking  
11-7-96*

Dear Secretary

1. Mr Hennessy and I met Nancy Soderberg and Mary Ann Peters at the White House on Tuesday evening for a general review of recent developments (Tony Lake, the National Security Adviser, is on an official visit to China at present).
2. The overall sense we came away with was of a White House still strongly engaged in the process but clearly very frustrated by the failure of Adams to deliver to date. They found this particularly frustrating given that, in their view, all the measures necessary to enable another ceasefire to be called had been put in place by the two Governments on the 10th June. In the circumstances, Soderberg said that she had to begin to question Adams' influence over the Army Council and, in effect, his capacity to deliver.
3. That said, the White House was staying with the process. In particular, they believed that, over the coming weeks, London, Dublin and Washington should continue, to the degree possible, to offer all possible assurances to Sinn Féin about the seriousness of the talks process.
4. Asked about the present British thinking, Soderberg said that London is still fully engaged. She did not think therefore that they would have any difficulty in conveying

appropriate assurances to Sinn Féin. She added that (as Pat Hennessy has already reported) the White House was somewhat surprised that the British seemed relatively relaxed about the Manchester atrocity and the mortar attack in Germany, and that these incidents appeared to have little or no impact on their continuing commitment to the process.

5. The White House, who tend to speak to Adams every week to ten days, intend making contact with the Sinn Féin President in the next few days. Asked about these conversations, Soderberg said that Adams tends to prevaricate and, in particular, to fail to give any real sense of the timeframe within which he can or will try to deliver. This, as indicated earlier, adds to the White House doubts about his capacity to deliver. At the same time, Soderberg believes that he remains committed to the process.
6. While they had not spoken to Hume for some time, Soderberg believed he was still optimistic about a renewed ceasefire. Soderberg said she would call him in a day or so.
7. Soderberg also mentioned that there are one or two difficult issues on which the Administration will have to take a decision in the near future. These include a decision (by the Secretary of State) on whether to extradite Jimmy Smyth from California to Northern Ireland. In present circumstances, the Administration had really no option but to agree to the extradition. However, they were not sure what (legal) impact Smyth's application for political asylum will have on the extradition process. She indicated also that there was quite some political pressure building up on the issue and, as a result, we had a sense that the Administration would be happy

to find a legal way out of taking an early decision.

8. Finally, and to sum up, the clear message from the White House was one of encouragement to all of us to keep on trying over the next few weeks to see if it might be possible to put a ceasefire back in place. We agreed to stay closely in touch with the developing situation.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dermot Gallagher', written over a horizontal line.

Dermot Gallagher  
Ambassador

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

SECURE-FX TRANSMISSION

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COPY

11 July 1996

**DISCUSSION WITH NANCY SODERBERG**

COPY TO:  
PST  
PSS  
MR. P. TEAMON  
MR. E. DONLON  
MR. T. DAITON

Dear Secretary

As conveyed, I had a long discussion on the phone with Nancy Soderberg about the situation in Portadown. She was as taken aback by developments as we were, and agreed that they would seek a full explanation from London for the reversal of the Chief Constable's decision.

Soderberg is deeply concerned about the implications of the decision. She wondered, however, how we might try to take matters forward now. I suggested that, as a first step, a Commission or some such body needed to be brought together quickly in order to draw up guidelines for future parades; this should help in particular to ensure that disasters such as Drumcree did not continue to happen on an annual basis.

I also laid particular emphasis on the importance of the RUC behaving in a fair and balanced manner in their handling of parades over the coming weekend. In this regard, I expressed particular concern about the situation in Belfast, given that the indications from there this afternoon seemed to suggest that the RUC approach might again be a partisan one.

We also discussed a number of other issues, including the position of Sinn Féin in the present circumstances. I felt it premature, however, to seek to review the wider situation at this

Ms Nolan

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of it makes clear  
it is likely to  
be forgotten

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12-7-96

precise time.

We will be meeting again later this evening when I accompany the Secretary to the White House for a planned discussion of Presidency issues. The Northern situation will inevitably come up at this meeting.

Yours sincerely

Dermot Gallagher  
Ambassador

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