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IMMEDIATE

SECURE FAX NO: 86 **PAGES:** 3

19 JULY 1997

TO HQ
FOR SECRETARY O hUIGINN **FROM PAT HENNESSY**

CEASE-FIRE: WHITE HOUSE ROLE

1. Congressman Peter King called this morning to fill me in in more detail on his contacts with the Administration prior to today's announcement. The local Sinn Féin representative, Mairead Keane, met with King on last Thursday evening, immediately following her return from Ireland. Acting clearly on instructions, she asked King to contact the White House to press for assurances that following a cease-fire, Sinn Féin would receive equal treatment with all the other parties: this related to such areas as visas, fund-raising and access to the White House. She indicated that a cease-fire was imminent, although was uncertain whether it would come the following day or into next week.

2. King spoke the same evening with Deputy National Security Adviser Jim Steinberg. Steinberg told King that he could assure Adams "that the President was personally aware of their interests and concerns". King was encouraged by this response, and relayed it back to Adams, with whom he has had a number of conversations over recent days, including late Friday evening.

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3. From King's account, it seems that Sinn Féin did not press (at least in a sustained fashion) for specific demands in these areas, but were anxious for general assurances that they would be treated by the Administration on the same basis as the other talks parties. As regards a possible visit by Adams to Washington, King understood that there were no immediate plans, but expected one probably from late August onwards. [Senator Kennedy's office, which was also contacted by Sinn Féin, was critical of a lack of clarity on Sinn Féin objectives, vis-a-vis the White House. Issues, including cases of individual republican prisoners in the US (eg Peter Eamon Maguire) were flagged as important, but then dropped].

4. King added that following today's IRA announcement, he tested reaction with an IRA "hard-liner" (this individual clashed with Adams over taking up of Dáil seats in the late 1980s) whom he has known in Belfast over the years: the response was totally supportive of Adams and the cease-fire decision. King noted that his contact, unprompted, mentioned media reports this morning that Adams and Mowlam would be meeting within a few days, and was clearly impressed at the rapid pace at which events were moving.

5. A copy of King's statement welcoming the cease-fire is attached. The statement highlights King's role in the "diplomatic arrangements" leading to the announcement, noting that he has been "consulting directly with Adams and the White House".

END

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News from Congressman PETE KING

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REP. KING HAILS IRA CEASE-FIRE

Congressman Pete King (R-Seaford, NY), Co-Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee for Irish Affairs, today declared that the Irish Republican Army (IRA) cease-fire, called to begin tomorrow, marks a dramatic turn of events in the north of Ireland and is a critical step toward the peaceful resolution of the Irish conflict. King also praised Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams for his courage and leadership in helping to bring about the cease-fire.

"Gerry Adams has once again demonstrated his deep personal commitment to a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Ireland," King said. "He has remained true to his goal of 'taking the gun out of Irish politics.'"

Rep. King has been closely involved in the diplomatic arrangements leading up to the cease-fire announcement, particularly over the last several days, consulting directly with Adams and the White House.

"Also deserving credit along with Adams are Prime Minister Blair, Prime Minister Ahern and President Clinton," King added. "Their combined commitment to putting the Irish peace process back on track has been steadfast, never flagging even in the face of often extremely difficult circumstances."

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19 JULY 1997

TO HQ
FOR SECRETARY O hUIGINN

FROM WASHINGTON
FROM P HENNESSY

WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT: CEASE-FIRE

1. The President has issued the attached statement on the IRA cease-fire. The statement welcomes the cease-fire – "which we expect to be implemented unequivocally and permanently". It commends the leadership of Sinn Féin, and the efforts of the Irish and British Governments to achieve this result. The President reiterates that the "United States will work closely with the two governments and the political parties to build on this historic opportunity".

2. In our continuing contacts this morning with the White House, they point to two elements which they expect will be particularly welcome to Sinn Féin:
   - the assertion that the "negotiations must ensure equality, justice and respect for both cultures", and
   - "my Administration will work with Sinn Féin as with the other political parties".

   You will recall that this last point–demand for equality of treatment–was raised by Sinn Féin in contacts with the White House immediately prior to yesterday's Sinn Féin statement.

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The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release July, 19 1997

Statement by the President on the IRA Cease-fire in Northern Ireland

On behalf of the American people, I welcome the cease-fire declared by the IRA on July 19. This declaration, which we expect to be implemented unequivocally and permanently, can open the door to inclusive negotiations to achieve a just and lasting settlement of the conflict in Northern Ireland, a settlement that will heal age-old divisions and create an environment in which both vibrant traditions can flourish and prosper.

This is a moment of great possibility. As Northern Ireland's political leaders begin to shape their future, I urge them to do so on the basis of the principles of fairness and compromise that underpin all democratic systems. These negotiations must be based on a commitment to bringing about positive change and respecting the eventual settlement, even though it will not fulfill all the desires of any one party or community. The negotiations must ensure equality, justice and respect for both cultures. As I have said many times, such negotiations can only take place free from the shadow of the violence or the threat of violence. That is why we look to Sinn Fein, like the other parties participating in the talks, to give their full commitment to the Mitchell Principles.

Many men and women have taken great risks to bring about a peaceful resolution of this conflict. I commend the leaders of Sinn Fein who have helped bring about the cease-fire, as I commend the loyalist leaders who have sought to maintain their own cease-fire through many difficult months. The possibilities opened by today's announcement are also a tribute to those political leaders who have steadfastly condemned violence and worked to forge a democratically negotiated settlement. I particularly appreciate the efforts of the governments of Great Britain and Ireland, who have dedicated themselves to pursuing peace and a democratically negotiated settlement that will benefit all the people.

The United States will work closely with the two governments and the political parties to build on this historic opportunity. On the basis of this cease-fire, implemented unequivocally, my Administration will work with Sinn Fein as with the other political parties. The United States will strongly support those who take the risks of principled compromise as they seek a peaceful and prosperous future for themselves and their children.

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