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25 August, 1997

To: A-I Division From: Washington

For: David Cooney From: Adrian O'Neill

c/c *Second Secretary O'Huiginn*

Re: Sinn Féin visit to Washington, 2-4 September

1. Mairéad Keane (Director of Friends of Sinn Féin office in Washington) confirmed to me today that Mr Adams and the SF delegation will visit Washington from 2-4 September. Adams will arrive here on the evening of Tuesday, 2 September, having travelled from Ireland via JFK in New York. On that evening he will attend a reception hosted by the "Irish-American Community in Washington" (the actual invitations are, in fact, being issued by the Irish-American Unity Conference).

2. We have already reported on most of the SF appointments in Washington. Ms Keane confirmed that on 3/4 September the SF delegation will have meetings at the White House (with the National Security Advisor, Sandy Berger), with the Secretary for Commerce, Bill Daley, with Senators Kennedy and Dodd (most likely, together), with Senator D'Amato and with the House International Relations Committee (under Chairman Gilman). Mr Adams and his colleagues will also speak at the National Press Club and will, no doubt, undertake a significant media programme.

3. I understand that the SF delegation have also sought a meeting with Speaker Gingrich and are awaiting a response. (Apparently Chairman Gilman and Congressman King have both urged the Speaker to agree to the meeting.) While Sinn Fein have not sought a specific meeting with the State Department, Ms Keane expects that State will be represented at the meeting in the White House with Mr Berger. The Ireland/Northern Ireland desk officer at the State Department, Steve Kashkett, has also been invited to the "Irish-American Community" reception.

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4. Ms Keane indicated that the SF delegation would, if at all possible, like an opportunity to meet Ambassador-designate O'Huiginn. However, the very tight schedule made it difficult to identify a clear opening. As a possibility, she suggested that the Ambassador might attend the reception on the evening of September, 2. While I undertook to convey this invitation, I indicated that - as the Ambassador would himself have only just arrived in Washington - his schedule that particular evening might be constrained. We agreed to review the matter as the respective schedules firmed up.

END

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