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cc Mr. Brangan (Dan Mulhall, Adrian McDaid, Michael Gaffey)
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12.

13 November, 1997

To: A-I Division From: Washington

For: Dermot Brangan From: Adrian O'Neill

c/c: Dan Mulhall; Adrian McDaid; Michael Gaffey

Re: SoS Mowlam's remarks at the White House

1. SoS Mowlam briefly spoke to a poorly attended media "stake-out" after her meeting with the National Security Advisor, Sandy Berger, at the White House this afternoon. (Despite some press speculation in advance, VP Gore did not "drop by" the meeting.)

2. The SoS told the press that it had been an "enjoyable meeting". The NI Talks were progressing well and progress had been made. She said that the question most frequently asked in her discussions in Washington was how to broaden out the Talks process to include the rest of civil society in NI - the business sector, community groups, the social partners etc.

3. Asked about the recent manifestations of dissidence within the Republican movement, the SoS said that the advice she received was that the IRA cease-fire was still holding firm and was, in fact, holding better than the previous cessation. Moreover, the position of SF in the Talks had not altered. She added that one would expect difficulties of this kind as the Talks begin to enter a substantive phase.

4. The SoS said that, due to the current crisis in Iraq, she did not expect to have the meeting in the White House today. (Indeed, the timing of the meeting was apparently changed at the last moment to accommodate the pressures on the

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National Security Advisor.) The fact that the meeting took place was indicative of the Administration's commitment to the NI peace process - as previously evidenced in the President's visit in 1995 and the First Lady's most recent trip to Belfast.

5. The SoS spoke of her desire to have a "truly inclusive process" and that she would like the DUP and the UKUP to rejoin the Talks. (I understand she said at the press briefing this morning that Paisley had told her to stop asking him to rejoin the process but that she intended to persist.)

6. The SoS was asked whether she had detected any sense of impatience on the part of the White House at the current approach of Mr Trimble to the Talks. She replied that she had not picked up any such impatience. What she did pick up from her US interlocutors was an understanding that the talks process was difficult and complicated and that hard times may be ahead. They understood that it was necessary to give trust and confidence to everyone in the process, that you must build up both sides and that "you can't get there with only the respect of one side, you have to have the trust of both".

7. Finally, RTE asked the SoS about the extradition and deportation issues. Ignoring the latter, she replied that she had raised the current extradition cases (the three republicans in San Francisco) and had indicated that "as elsewhere, it was a matter for the law and it is as simple as that".

END
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