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Sp noted & filed

Mr Gilmore 14.1.2000

cc the Taoiseach, the Tánaiste, the Minister for Justice

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**MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT CLINTON AND GERRY ADAMS**

**WHITE HOUSE, JANUARY 12, 2000**

1. Dick Norland gave me the following read-out of the meetings at the White House this afternoon starting at 2.30.

2. Adams was accompanied by Rita O'Hare and Richard McAuley. They met first with Sandy Berger and Jim Steinberg for about thirty minutes. Unfortunately Berger was called out of the meeting several times and this did not help the flow of exchanges. The meeting was intended to be a kind of general review in preparation for the meeting with the President. Adams was fairly upbeat about the "real political progress" that had been made in the past months.

3. Norland characterised the meeting with the President, which lasted for about an hour, as one of "circular argumentation" where Adams insisted that decommissioning could not happen under pressure of a deadline and the President kept making the point that something had to happen to enable the present difficulty to be overcome. Adams asked if the President was willing to exert some pressure on the British and the President said that he would, mentioning that he had already made the point to Blair that some movement on demilitarisation and related issues such as Patten, would be helpful. He would continue to do this.

4. The upshot of the meeting was that it was agreed that Jim Steinberg would stay in touch with Adams in the coming days (and perhaps with de Chastelain) to see what might be worked out by way of taking the issue forward. SoS Albright was also at the meeting.

Taoiseach

17.1.2000

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5. You will have noticed that the White House are maintaining a fairly minimalist line with the press - meeting covered all aspects of the implementation of the Agreement and lasted around 45 minutes (Adrian O'Neill is reporting separately). They do not want it known that the total time given to Adams was about an hour and a half nor that Jim Steinberg is to be actively involved over the next while. They feel that any knowledge or speculation about moves behind the scenes would not be helpful and Dick Norland appealed to us to maintain this confidentiality.

6. Norland also suggested that SG Teahon might consider renewing his contact with Steinberg in the next days about the issues involved.

**T Russell**

**January 12, 2000**

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