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17 JAN 1994 SQ/172/94

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13 JAN 1994
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FROM: D FELL
13 JANUARY 1994

cc PS/Michael Ancram (DENI, B&L) - B
PS/PUS (L&B) - B
Mr Thomas - B
Mr Bell - B
Mr Watkins - B
Mr Williams - B
Mr Daniell - B

Handwritten signature and initials

PS/SECRETARY OF STATE (L&B) - B

US CONSUL-GENERAL

1. The US Consul-General in Belfast, Mr Val Martinez, called to see me about a couple of matters this afternoon.
2. First, he confirmed that the programme for the proposed visit by Ambassador Kennedy-Smith to Northern Ireland from 9-11 February 1994, was now firming up very much along the lines noted in Mr Maxwell's minute of 12 January to Martin Williams. Mrs Kennedy-Smith herself was content with the programme; and Ambassador Ray Seitz has now written to the State Department confirming that, provided the programme is broadly as planned, he too is content, provided Mrs Kennedy-Smith continues to rely on the advice of the US Consul-General in Belfast. Martinez hinted, however, that relationships between the two Ambassadors were still somewhat frosty.
3. Turning to his second issue, he left with me (to follow by fax) a copy of the letter to the Northern Ireland party leaders (including Gerry Adams) from the National Committee

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on American Foreign Policy Inc. This is a prestigious body, whose Chairman is Henry Kissinger, and, according to Martinez, should be taken seriously. His understanding is that John Alderdice will accept the invitation, Jim Molyneaux will send Ken Maginnis, John Hume will either attend himself or send a representative, and Dr Paisley will decline. Mr Adams is on record as saying that he will be seeking a US Visa to enable him to attend. He has not so far applied, and, given that the Conference is on 31 January, and that a Visa takes a minimum of two weeks to process (and, given the political sensitivities, perhaps even longer in this particular case) it is coming close to the point where it will simply not be possible to process a Visa in time.

4. But even if an application is made, though there are apparently divided views within the US Administration on the matter (extending to the question of whether or not it is sensible for the US Administration to try and give Adams help in 'selling' the Declaration to the 'hard men' in PIRA) Martinez is confident that the balance of opinion will be substantially against the issuing of a Visa to Adams at this stage. However, he is not 100% certain that this will be the case, and is just a little nervous lest it goes the other way. He added that he had made his own view known very clearly on the demerits of reaching out to Adams at present, which view, he believes, will not improve his relationships with Ambassador Kennedy-Smith. He agreed that I could convey this state of play to the Secretary of State and relevant colleagues.

Signed David Fell

DAVID FELL

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