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111/93

N BELL, AUS(L)
4 March 1993

ASST
SEC - 8 MAR 1993
CENT MM 313/3 SEC

argetts

cc PS/Secretary of State (L&B)
PS/Mr Hanley (L&B, DENI)
PS/PUS (L&B)
PS/Mr Fell
Mr Thomas
Mr Williams
Mr Brooker
Mr Hill
Mr Maccabe
Mr Archer, RID
HMA, Dublin

UNDER/ 296/3
SEC
- 5 MAR 1993
CENT SEC

HEAD OF THE N.I.
- 5 MAR 1993
304P
CIVIL SERVICE

W. Watkins
for file
Steve

NORTHERN IRELAND: FACT-FINDING VISIT

Thank you for sending me a copy of your submission of 3 March 93 inviting comments on the text which the White House would like to deploy in announcing the US "fact finding visit" to Northern Ireland.

2. Up to a point, I agree with you that the wording is probably as good as we will get: it is low key; it stresses fact finding; and it keeps the US at arms length from our particular problems. On the other hand, it would read somewhat oddly were Speaker Foley not to be the "fact finder". This, rather obvious, point may be worth bearing in mind in formulating our response to Sir R Renwick.

3. I also dimly recall, being around at the time, that the IFI was the brain-child of the "Four Horsemen", including Mr O'Neill. But you might usefully check this was so, and whether the credit should go to him alone.

(Signed PNB)

PNB

P N BELL
OAB 6469

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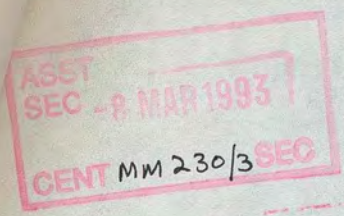
SMJ/AUSL/24209

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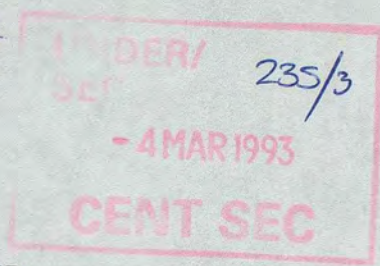
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JONATHAN M RODELL
PS/SECRETARY OF STATE (L)
4 MARCH 1993



- cc: PS/Secretary of State (L&B) - B
- PS/Mr Hanley (L&B, DENI) - B/M
- PS/PUS (L&B) - B
- PS/Mr Fell - B
- Mr Thomas - B
- Mr Bell - B
- Mr Williams - B
- Mr Brooker - B
- Mr Hill - B
- Mr Maccabe - B
- HMA Dublin - B
- Mr Archer, RID - B



Mr Margetts - B

to Mr Waffens
in [unclear]

NORTHERN IRELAND: FACT-FINDING VISIT

The Secretary of State has seen your minute of 3 March and is entirely content with the text of the draft announcement to be made by the White House. He regards it as the achievement of maximum damage limitation. He would be grateful if, when you pass on this message to the Washington Embassy, you would also relay his thanks to Sir Robin.

Signed

[Handwritten signature]

JONATHAN M RODELL
PS/SECRETARY OF STATE (L)
OAB EXTN 6461
4 MARCH 1993

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