

22 SEP '94 13:05

SSU 2494 JF 23-9-94
P.2/4

cc PS Mr Smith
Mr Gibson

FROM: JONATHAN STEPHENS
SIL/TPU
21 SEPTEMBER 1994

JS 21/9

1. NI Templeton 23/9
2. Mrs Godfrey 26/9
Para 4 probably
explains the cryptic phrase
calls you received today.

- PS/POS (L&B) - B
- PS/Mr Fell - B
- Mr Legge - B
- Mr Thomas - B
- Mr Bell - B
- Mr Loughran, DED - F
- Mr Williams - B
- Mr Watkins - B
- Mr Wood (L&B) - B
- Mr Brooker - B
- Mr Dodds - B
- Mr Beeton - B
- Mr Maccabe - B
- Mr Caine - B
- HMA, Washington - F
- HMA Dublin - B
- Mr Archer, RID - B

Mr Coleman

MEDIA STRATEGY FOR ADAMS' VISIT: FOLLOW-UP

Following my submission of yesterday, and a discussion at this morning's Ministerial meeting, we discussed the action that needs to be taken to put in hand a strategy to manage Adams's visit.

2. This note records that action because it will require the cooperation of a number of copy recipients. There is also one idea in paras 10 and 11 on which I should welcome comments today.

Visitors

3. Ministers were keen to have a flow of non-Governmental visitors to the US who could speak about Northern Ireland with some authority. Dr Alderdice and the Reverend John Dunlop (with Archbishop Eames as a possibility) are the NI candidates to be pursued and Tom King is preferred to Michael Mates. Private Office will be making arrangements to canvass these possibilities during the course of today.

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Handwritten notes on the right margin, including 'D', 'P', 'S', 'L', 'R'.

4. You are commissioning some briefing on the assumption that someone will go and will want to know what the Government's general lines are even if they may not follow them exactly. Briefing will need to be tailored to the US market, and will need to be suitable to be given to someone outside Government.

5. You were also going to confirm that the Embassy and the FCO would put practical arrangements for visitors in hand. These include doing whatever needs to be done to get visas quickly.

Mr Smith and Baroness Denton

6. Both will be visiting the US during or around Adams' visit. We want to keep both visits low-key so they do not attract publicity and put Ministers in the awkward position of having to refuse to appear with Adams. Nevertheless, both Ministers will need to be equipped with briefing on the general situation, for use with contacts or in case they find themselves cornered by the media.

7. As far as Mr Smith's visit is concerned, Ministers are very keen that this should be used to promote US financial assistance to Northern Ireland, which suggests that some contacts with the economic side of the Administration would be useful. It would be helpful if Central Secretariat could discuss with Mr Smith's office, DED and the Embassy what sort of contacts would be most useful, and provide the necessary briefing, but we shall obviously need to keep a watching brief.

Monitoring Adams

8. You also agreed to discuss with the Embassy what arrangements need to be put in hand to make sure we know reasonably quickly what Adams has said.

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Our response to Adams' visit

9. Finally, you agreed to give some thought to the line we might generally take on Adams' visit. We are likely to be criticised for apparently leaving the field clear to Adams, and the usual (ill-informed) criticisms of our general information effort abroad may be repeated. We should aim to circulate those lines to No 10 and elsewhere, together with an account of what we are doing about Adams' visit, by close of play tomorrow.

Pre-emptive action?

10. There is one further thought, on which I should be grateful for comments from colleagues. Is there scope for some pre-emptive action? The idea would be to try to do something to set the agenda ahead of Adams' arrival in the US by promulgating the sorts of questions and issues which we think he ought to be asked to address - such as permanence, consent etc. Possible ways of doing this include a signed article by the Secretary of State to coincide with Adams' arrival; some editorial briefing of leader writers; getting to Adams' political contacts in front of him with some suggestions for questions.

11. This carries some risks as well: not least of hyping the visit still further, or digging ourselves further into the hole on permanence, for example. So I should welcome comments on where the balance of advantage lies during the course of today.

SIGNED

JONATHAN STEPHENS
Security and International Division
OAB Ext 6587

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