

NI Bureau in Washington 138/9.  
file: USA

Laureen Meharg  
09/11/2000 04:18 PM

To: Peter.smyth@washington.mail.fco.gov.uk  
cc: Pamela Ferguson/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Linda Johnston/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Peter May/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Geraldine McGurk/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Valerie Parkinson/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Pamela Stewart/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Fiona Dynes/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Maura Quinn/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Ps Ministers/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Jenny Conway/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Gerry Loughran/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Dara Cosgrove/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Ciara Magee/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, John McKervill/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Paul Pringle/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Colin Ross/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Mark Larmour/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP

Subject: COR/441/00 - LETTER TO FM RE SUPPORT OF PEACE PROCESS IN NI

Please see attached. This was hand delivered via Sir Reg Empey by Governor Rowlands of Connecticut..

Thanks.

----- Forwarded by Laureen Meharg/OFMDFM/DFP on 11/09/2000 16:19 -----

**THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER**

**URGENT**

**(CORRESPONDENCE)**

**Reference:** COR/441/2000

**Raised By:** George W Bush

**Subject:** COR/441/00 - LETTER TO FM RE SUPPORT OF PEACE PROCESS IN NI

**ACTION REQUIRED**

Please provide advice and a draft reply for signature by the **P S / First Minister** .

**TO BE WITH PRIVATE OFFICE NO LATER THAN 25/09/2000 - Noon**

**Referred To:**

PETER SMYTH (FCO)

**Date Referred:**

11/09/2000

**Copied To For Information**

*Mr M. Smyth*

PS/First Minister  
PS/Deputy First Minister  
PS/Mr Haughey  
PS/Mr Nesbitt  
PS/Mr Loughran  
Mr McCusker  
Mr Haire  
Mr May  
Mr McKervill  
Mr Smyth  
Mr Campbell  
Dr Gudgin  
Mr Logue  
Mr Barrington  
Mr Larkin  
Mr Kerr  
Mr Ross  
Mr Larmour  
Mr Pringle  
Mrs Cosgrove  
Ms Magee

Laureen Meharg (Private Office)

THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER

Parliament Buildings Tel: 028 9052 1387

George Bush



GEORGE W. BUSH

September 8, 2000

The Honorable David Trimble, M.P.  
First Minister  
Northern Ireland Executive  
Belfast, Northern Ireland

Dear David,

I want to extend my personal greetings to you, and to express my admiration for your commitment to peace in Northern Ireland. The road has been long, and it has not been easy, but you have succeeded in furthering reconciliation and bringing an elected representative Assembly to Northern Ireland.

You may be assured of my personal interest and full commitment to helping move the peace process forward. I believe that the support of the United States was an important element in helping the parties achieve the Good Friday Agreement, and that America should be ready, if necessary, to appoint a special envoy to further facilitate the search for lasting peace, justice, and reconciliation.

I am encouraged by the very real economic growth that has come to the entire island of Ireland. At least part of this growth can be credited to the strengthening of business ties between the United States and Ireland, and I strongly support continued and increased private American investment in both Northern Ireland and the Republic.

I am also encouraged by the work of Chris Patten and his Commission in reviewing and recommending reforms of the police authorities in Northern Ireland. I appreciate the importance of tradition and symbols, and the sensitivities of the communities in Northern Ireland on this issue, and support the full implementation of the Commission's recommendations.

Please know that you and the people of the entire island of Ireland have a friend in George W. Bush. America should remain engaged in the Irish peace process, and I will work hard and pray always for a lasting peace in Northern Ireland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George W. Bush".

George W. Bush

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Ps Ministers

08/24/2000 08:54 AM

Sent by: Emma Croot

To: gerry.loughran@ofmdfmni.gov.uk, Geraldine McGurk/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Pamela Ferguson/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Anne Rainey/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Linda Johnston/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, John McKervill/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, pamela.stewart@ofmdfmni.gov.uk, jenny.conway@ofmdfmni.gov.uk, pamela.stewart@ofmdfmni.gov.uk, fiona.dynes@ofmdfmni.gov.uk, fiona.dynes@ofmdfmni.gov.uk, valerie.parkinson@ofmdfmni.gov.uk, Mark Larmour/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Colin Ross/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Paul Pringle/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Dara Cosgrove/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Ciara Magee/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Martin Keenan/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Pauline Morgan/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP

cc: Peter May/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP

Subject: SUB/364/2000 - VISIT TO WASHINGTON

The attached submission has been received by the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister and is attached for your information.



usa.pdf



usacc.pdf

Handwritten signature: HS Mappin

### Background

The visit will take place at a time when there is no way of predicting what level of interest will be shown in Northern Irish affairs by a post-Clinton Administration. The platform statement at the Republican convention indicated that a Bush Presidency would push for full implementation of Patten, a general review of deportation and extradition cases, and the appointment "if necessary" of a special US envoy. The Democrats show a much more restrained approach, preferring only to seek (in very broad terms) implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, and the encouragement of new and positive political relationships in Northern Ireland. Although platform statements are not fully binding, they provide a rough guide to the temperature on policy issues, and on this reading, a Bush Administration might be more actively engaged on Northern Ireland than one headed by Gore. What seems certain, however, is that neither will be as committed as Clinton. Subject to the continued implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, Northern Ireland as an issue will not vanish but may well move down the radar screen.

This analysis suggests that the objectives of the proposed visit by the First Minister/Deputy First Minister should be:

### Northern Ireland Bureau

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