

From: G R Archer
Republic of Ireland Dept

Date: 12 April 1994

cc: PS
PS/PUS
Mr D Wright
Mr Beamish
Mr Pellew, NAD
PS/SOSNI
PS/Michael Ancram
PS/PUS, NIO
Mr Thomas, NIO
Mr Bell, NIO
Mr Daniell, NIO
PS/No. 10

Sir T Daunt

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN MR ADAMS AND PRESIDENT CLINTON

1. The National Security Council have given the Embassy in Washington the attached copies of the letter from the Sinn Fein President to President Clinton and Mr Lake's reply.
2. Our initial line with the Americans had been that it might be best to avoid replying to the Adams letter. This was the line provided by the State Department to the NSC. However, it became clear late on Friday that the Administration had decided to acknowledge the letter. No. 10 consulted me and were able to make suggestions to the NSC. These have been incorporated in the reply.
3. It is not the Administration's intention to give any publicity to Mr Lake's letter although they assume that it is possible that Sinn Fein may have had publicity in mind.
4. I think that the outcome is as good as we could have realistically hoped for, in particular the reference to Mr Lyne's letter and the absence of any reaffirmation of a possible US role which had at one stage been in the working draft.



G R Archer

12/94 07:20

202 898 4255

BRITISH EMB-WASH --- RID-FCO

002/004

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

07-Apr-1994 19:03 EDT

UNCLASSIFIED

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Julien D. LeBourgeois

(LEBOURGEOIS)

FROM:

M. Brooke Darby
(DARBY)

SUBJECT:

adams letter - per your request

Text of letter from Garry Adams to President Clinton (dated March 31):

I trust this letter finds you well.

By now you will have learned of the initiative taken by the IRA. I have welcomed this as a positive and significant indication of goodwill and flexibility aimed at providing space for the British government to end the current deadlock. I hope the British government will seize that opportunity.

For some time now the British government has rejected the reasonable request by Sinn Fein for clarification of the Downing St. Declaration. The provision of such would of course allow Sinn Fein to conclude our assessment of the Declaration's potential to move the situation in the direction of a lasting peace based on democratic principles and to speedily come to a definitive position.

Given that the British government had been involved in protracted contact and dialogue with Sinn Fein when it did not claim to have a basis for a settlement it is illogical that they now refuse any contact or dialogue when they claim to have such a basis.

On the other hand the Dublin government has, from its perspective, provided the necessary clarification as a means to assisting the process. This is of course most welcome and helpful.

I therefore trust that the opportunity now provided is taken up by the British government and that the friends of the Irish and British peoples in the international community will encourage them to do so.

The provision of the necessary clarification in a manner which respects the legitimacy and democratic integrity of the Sinn Fein electorate and our rights as a political party would certainly assist progress.

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I know that this is a serious and genuine initiative by those concerned. It must be built upon. If it fails to create the necessary momentum especially because of the British reluctance to meaningfully engage with Sinn Fein or to recognize the rights of our electorate we must then seek other ways to move forward.

We must exhaust all possibilities to advance the peace process.

I am fully committed to doing so.

You have shown your willingness in the past to assist the peace process. The decision to grant me a 48 hour visa to enter the U.S.A. was a positive contribution to this.

I hope that you will find it possible to use your good offices again to move the whole situation on. Many thanks.

Is mise le meas (Yours sincerely),

G. Adams
President of Sinn Fein

CC: Non Records

(NONRECORDED)

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004/004

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 8, 1994

Dear Mr. Adams:

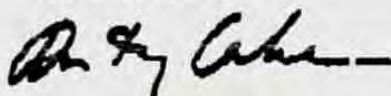
Thank you for your letter to President Clinton of March 31. He has asked me to reply on his behalf.

As the President said publicly upon the announcement of the IRA's three day cessation of violence, we hope that Sinn Fein and the IRA will renounce violence permanently and endorse the Joint Declaration as the best path forward for peace in Northern Ireland. We have repeatedly urged all involved to end the use of violence as a means of advancing political goals; it is time for the people of Northern Ireland to resolve their differences through dialogue and negotiations. It was in that spirit that the President permitted your attendance at the peace conference in New York earlier this year.

As the end of the three-day ceasefire approaches, I urge you to work to prevent a resumption of the violence that has cost so many lives and to bring about an end to the IRA's killing once and for all. I know you have been pressing for the British government to enter into a dialogue with you. It has been pressing you for a permanent renunciation of violence and an endorsement of the Joint Declaration. In his letter sent to you yesterday, Prime Minister Major's Private Secretary Roderic Lyne set out a path for achieving the objectives you seek. Extending the ceasefire permanently could clearly lead to the dialogue outlined in Mr. Lyne's letter and I hope you will work to achieve that goal.

Again, the people of Northern Ireland have suffered the violence for too long and deserve a lasting peace. We look forward to making progress toward the important and long overdue objective.

Sincerely,



Anthony Lake
Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

Mr. Gerry Adams
President
Sinn Fein
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Beal Feirste BT12 4PD
IRELAND