

CONFIDENTIAL
 FM WASHINGTON
 TO DESKBY 210800Z FCO
 TELNO 153
 OF 202205Z JANUARY 94
 AND TO IMMEDIATE NIO(L)
 INFO IMMEDIATE DUBLIN, ACTOR

*1 put more pressure
 on Lake this evening.*

Rmyl 2/1

MY TELNO 125: GERRY ADAMS

SUMMARY

1. NO DECISION YET ON ADAMS' VISA APPLICATION. STATE AND SPEAKER FOLEY FIRMLY OPPOSED. NSC KEEN TO GIVE A QUOTE CONSTRUCTIVE UNQUOTE RESPONSE.

DETAIL

2. ADAMS' VISA APPLICATION WAS DISCUSSED OVER LUNCH ON 19 JANUARY BY WARREN CHRISTOPHER, LAKE AND OXMAN (ASSISTANT SECRETARY). CHRISTOPHER ARGUED FIRMLY AGAINST GIVING ADAMS A VISA BEFORE HE HAD RENOUNCED TERRORISM AND ENDORSED THE JOINT DECLARATION. LAKE SAID HE WANTED MORE TIME TO THINK THROUGH THE OPTIONS. NEITHER STATE NOR NSC EXPECT A DECISION IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE. FIFTEEN CONGRESSMEN HAVE NOW ADDED THEIR NAMES TO THE GROUP OF SENATORS (NOW NUMBERING FIVE, WITH THE ADDITION OF LAUTENBERG) CALLING FOR ADAMS TO BE GIVEN A VISA. IN STATE'S JUDGEMENT, THEIR IMPACT HAS BEEN LARGELY NULLIFIED BY FOLEY'S INTERVENTION ON THE OTHER SIDE (MY TELNO 125).

3. HOLL (NSC) HAS GIVEN US, IN STRICT CONFIDENCE, THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF THINKING WITHIN THE NSC. LAKE IS AGAINST GIVING ADAMS EITHER A SIMPLE YES OR NO. HE SEES THE VISA APPLICATION AS OFFERING THE ADMINISTRATION LEVERAGE, WHICH SHOULD BE USED CONSTRUCTIVELY. HE ACCEPTS, IN PART AT LEAST, THE ARGUMENT OF SENATOR KENNEDY AND OTHERS THAT ADAMS NEEDS SOME HELP IF HE IS TO SUCCEED IN BRINGING ROUND OTHER MEMBERS OF SINN FEIN/PIRA. THERE WAS, OF COURSE, NO GUARANTEE THAT GRANTING ADAMS A VISA, AND THE POLITICAL PLATFORM IN THE U.S. WHICH THAT ENTAILED, WOULD PRODUCE THE RESULT WHICH LONDON, DUBLIN AND WASHINGTON ALL WANTED. OUR ARGUMENTS AGAINST REWARDING ADAMS IN ADVANCE OF HIS RENUNCIATION OF VIOLENCE WERE ALSO UNDERSTOOD.

4. HOLL SAID THAT CLOSE ATTENTION WAS BEING PAID IN THE NSC TO THE RESPECTIVE POSITIONS OF LONDON AND DUBLIN. THE ADMINISTRATION WAS CONCERNED THAT THERE APPEARED TO BE DIFFERENCES OF EMPHASIS, NOTABLY ON CLARIFICATIONS TO THE JOINT DECLARATION AND BROADCASTING BANS ON SINN FEIN.

5. OUR CONTACTS IN BOTH STATE AND NSC CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE DECISION WILL GO AGAINST GIVING ADAMS A VISA AT THIS STAGE. MORE LIKELY, IN THEIR VIEW, IS A DECISION TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH ADAMS (PRESUMABLY VIA THE U.S. AMBASSADOR IN DUBLIN) DESIGNED TO HELP FORWARD THE PEACE PROCESS. WE HAVE LEFT THE NSC IN NO DOUBT OF OUR VIEWS AND EMPHASISED THE NEED FOR THE ADMINISTRATION TO TELL US IN ADVANCE OF THEIR DECISION.

RENWICK

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131

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ADDITIONAL

46

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