

CONFIDENTIAL PERSONAL

IMMEDIATE

ZCZC
CONFIDENTIAL
PERSONAL
FM FCO
TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON
TELNO
OF 262055Z JANUARY 94
INFO IMMEDIATE DUBLIN

FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY

VISA FOR GERRY ADAMS

SUMMARY

1. ~~The~~ Foreign Secretary lobbied ²⁾ ~~re~~ceptive Christopher on ~~the~~ Adams visa question. Christopher says ~~the~~ question was not yet with the President. He personally had great sympathy with the way London and Dublin were handling the Northern Ireland question.

DETAIL

2. The Foreign Secretary rang Warren Christopher this evening to lobby against the issuing of a visa for Gerry Adams. Christopher said the issue was not with the President at the moment. They were trying to sort things out inter-departmentally. He welcomed the opportunity to hear at first hand the Foreign Secretary's view.

3.

WASH26.1

PRIV OFFICE R J SAWERS

270 2059

CLASSIFIED BY
38 077

CLASSIFICATION

Jm 26/2.108
1

TELEGRAM NUMBER

PROCESSED BY

27.01. 1971

CONFIDENTIAL

PERSONAL

IMMEDIATE

3. The Foreign Secretary said that our strong preference was for a straightforward refusal of the application. Giving him a visa while the IRA carried on their killing and bombing campaign would be providing apples before harvest time. A visa would be a real prize for the IRA. They were also skilled tacticians and would be tempted to cause maximum disarray between Britain and America during any such visit. They had enough wit to arrange for an outrage to take place on the British mainland while Adams was in the United States. Then we and the Americans would be in trouble.

4. The Foreign Secretary, continuing, said that if the President had to concede then it should be on the basis that Adams would call on the IRA to renounce violence and follow exclusively the peaceful line laid down in the Joint Declaration.

5. Christopher asked if a formula on those lines would be a real help to us or was it just a palliative. The Foreign Secretary said it was no help at all. It would merely ameliorate slightly the effect of the American decision. We would have no guarantee that a statement made by Adams would be implemented.

6. On the presentation, the Foreign Secretary thought a refusal could be announced by saying that issuing a visa now was not timely, that there was a clear need for a cessation of violence in Northern Ireland, and that that should come first.

7. Christopher said that the conversation had been very helpful to him in terms of framing the debate. The Administration were, of course, not writing on a clean slate. But he personally had great sympathy with the way London and Dublin were managing the Irish issue. He found it hard to conceive how American involvement would be in any way helpful.

HURD