

ADVANCE COPY

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FM WASHINGTON
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 267
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INFO IMMEDIATE DUBLIN, NIO(L), ACTOR

FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY

FOREIGN SECRETARY'S CALL ON NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER, WASHINGTON, 31
JANUARY :
GERRY ADAMS

SUMMARY

1. FOREIGN SECRETARY SPELLS OUT BLUNTLY OUR POSITION ON ADAMS. LAKE
CHASTENED BUT UNREpentANT, STILL HOPING THAT ADAMS MIGHT PRODUCE
SOMETHING.

DETAIL

2. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLED ON TONY LAKE IN WASHINGTON THIS
EVENING. THE FIRST HALF OF THE MEETING WAS TAKEN UP WITH NORTHERN
IRELAND AND GERRY ADAMS' VISA.
3. LAKE RAISED THE QUESTION STRAIGHT-AWAY, EXPRESSING SOME DISMAY
THAT ADAMS WAS SCHEDULED TO APPEAR ON ALL THE MAIN TV CHANNELS DURING
HIS STAY. NANCY SODERBERG (NSC AND FORMER KENNEDY-STAFFER) WAS
ALLEGEDLY TRYING TO DISSUADE THE NETWORKS FROM INTERVIEWING HIM.
4. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID THAT ADAMS KNEW SOMETHING WHICH THE
WORLD DID NOT KNOW. ADAMS HAD BEEN PRESENTED WITH TWO CLEAR
CONDITIONS TO MEET, BUT HAD GOT WHAT HE WANTED BY SERVING UP DEEPLY
EVASIVE LANGUAGE.

WHETHER HE DID SO WOULD BE THE REAL TEST. MEANWHILE, WE
WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE SERIOUS FALL OUT SHOULD PEOPLE BE
KILLED THROUGH IRA VIOLENCE IN THE NEXT TWO DAYS. HE WAS ALSO WORRIED
ABOUT THE EFFECT OF ADAMS' VISIT ON THE MAIN ULSTER UNIONIST PARTY
WHICH WE HAD CARRIED WITH THE JOINT DECLARATION PROCESS, WITH
DIFFICULTY, AND WHICH VIEWED THE VISA FOR ADAMS WITH DEEP SUSPICION.
IF THE AMERICAN GAMBLE IN GRANTING A VISA DID NOT WORK OUT, THEN THE
WHOLE PROCESS OF PEACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND COULD BE WEAKENED.

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5. LAKE, SHIFTING NERVOUSLY, SAID THAT HE HAD KEPT US CLOSELY INFORMED OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S DECISION. THE TERMS ATTACHED TO THE VISA WERE NOT STRICT CONDITIONS, BUT "TOPICS TO BE ADDRESSED" BY ADAMS. HE THOUGHT THE NUANCES IN HIS WEEKEND STATEMENTS HAD BEEN USEFUL, AND WAS STILL HOPEFUL THAT THERE WOULD BE A POSITIVE OUTCOME FROM ADAMS' SPEECH AT THE CONFERENCE TOMORROW. HE WELCOMED THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S PROFESSIONAL RESPONSE TO THE ADMINISTRATION'S DECISION, AND ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS ANYTHING MORE THAT THEY COULD DO IN SUPPORT OF THE JOINT DECLARATION.

6. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID THAT OUR PUBLIC LINE HAD GONE DOWN AS WELL AS COULD BE HOPED. OTHERS OF COURSE WOULD GO FURTHER. IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL IF THE ADMINISTRATION COULD ONCE AGAIN GIVE A RINGING ENDORSEMENT TO THE JOINT DECLARATION, EMPHASISING THE NEED FOR COMPLETE CESSATION OF VIOLENCE, FOLLOWED BY A PERIOD OF CALM BEFORE SINN FEIN ARE INVOLVED IN TALKS. SIR R RENWICK ADDED THAT THE

QUESTION TO BE POSED TO ADAMS WAS "IS HE WILLING TO CALL ON HIS PEOPLE TO END THE VIOLENCE". IF NOT, HE STRONGLY HOPED THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD NOT OFFER ADAMS A SIMILAR PLATFORM AGAIN.

7. PLEASE ADVANCE TO PS, PS/PUS, SIR T DAUNT, HEAD/RID, PS/NO 10, PS/NORTHERN IRELAND SECRETARY.

RENWICK

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