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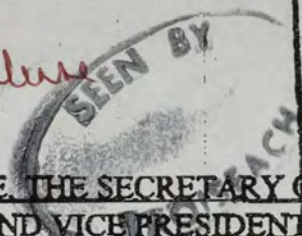
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Mr. Gillin
S.H.

*Donnell
to see please
John*



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MEETING BETWEEN TANAISTE, THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR NORTHERN IRELAND AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE
THE WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON DC, 23 MAY 1995

*for yr info.
John
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1. Vice President Gore said it was an honour to receive the Tánaiste and the Secretary of State, both of whom had made such a critical contribution to the peace process. He commended the courage of all those who had helped broker peace. He added that he recognised the skill and patience it had required to bring Sinn Féin and Northern Ireland Ministers together in talks.
2. The Vice President expressed confidence that the Governments would not be distracted by individual issues, however difficult, and would continue to work closely together. As for the Administration, it would continue to explore with Sinn Féin the need to show movement and progress on decommissioning. The overriding need was to ensure that the peace process did not lose momentum. In this regard, the United States was ready to act as a "catalyst" when required.
3. The Vice President also said he was sorry that Jim Molyneaux had declined to attend the Conference, and referred generally to the need to keep the Unionists on board.
4. The Tánaiste expressed his appreciation for the contribution of the U.S. Administration to the peace process and the commitment being shown by both the President and Vice President to it. This had played a critical role in the past and would continue to be a very important factor in ensuring that the process maintained its momentum. In this regard, the White House Conference was a highly significant event and a clear demonstration of the depth of engagement by the U.S. Maintaining momentum was of critical importance; many issues had to

be dealt with, of which the decommissioning of arms was one - albeit very important - aspect. The over-riding objective remained, of course, the establishment of all-party talks.

5. The Secretary of State also expressed his appreciation for the efforts of the U.S. in the peace process and, in particular, for organising the White House Conference. He said he wished the focus of the Conference to remain very firmly on its economic aspects. To help ensure that it was not "hijacked" by political events, he felt it right to meet the President of Sinn Féin, Gerry Adams, at the beginning of the Conference; he would seek to downplay the significance of this meeting to the media.
6. The Secretary of State went on to say that, at the Adams' meeting, he intended to emphasise the importance of economic development to the people of Northern Ireland and that the decommissioning of arms and the removal of the threat of violence was a critical part of this process. Without progress on decommissioning, it would be "quite impossible" to maintain confidence in John Major's Northern policy among many Conservative backbenchers and within the Unionist community. He invited the Administration to maintain "the sensitive pressure you have put on Sinn Féin".
7. The Secretary of State said he regretted Jim Molyneaux's decision not to attend the Conference and expressed the view that Unionists were "in a strange state", adding that their "exaggerated fears" of slipping into a United Ireland had to be assuaged.
8. The Vice President said he appreciated the Secretary of State's efforts to ensure

that his meeting with Adams did not detract from the Conference. He agreed that the primary focus of the Conference was economic and that economic development was a critical factor in ensuring a "sustainable peace". He found the interest and indeed excitement amongst business leaders in America about the situation in Ireland very encouraging. There was, he felt, a pent-up wish to invest there. President Clinton would emphasise at the Conference that the Administration was encouraging U.S. investment and business development in Northern Ireland and the border counties.

9. The Vice President made it clear that the President and the Administration remained open to any suggestions which the Irish and British Governments might make on how the U.S. might be of further help. He said he fully endorsed the Tánaiste's statement on the need to maintain the momentum of the peace process, and the Conference on Trade and Investment should be seen as an integral part of the U.S. effort in that regard.

10. The meeting lasted about 20 minutes. The Tánaiste was accompanied at the meeting by Ambassador Gallagher, Secretary Ó hUiginn, and the undersigned, while the Secretary of State was joined by his Private Secretary, Martin Howard, and Ambassador Renwick. Among the officials with the Vice President were Leon Fuerth, his National Security Adviser, Nancy Soderberg and Kathy Stephens, both from the NSC.

Eamonn McKee
Washington DC
7 June 1995