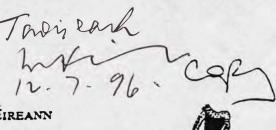


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Embassy of Ireland 2234 Massachusetts Ave., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20008

IMMEDIATE

SECURE FAX NO: 149

11 JULY 1996

HQ

FOR:

DATE.

TO:

PLEASE CC: COLM O FLOINN

MR. P TEAHON MR. S. DONLON MR. T. DALTON FROM: WASHINGTON

COPY TO:

PST

FROM: PAT HENNESSY

DRUMCREE: WHITE HOUSE REACTION

 We have kept the NSC briefed on a continuing basis on developments at Drumcree. Mary Ann Peters expressed astonishment and amazement at the decision to allow the march through. She believes the implication for the peace process to be very serious -"it's put the prospect of a cease-fire back a year".

SECRETARY O HUIGINN

- 2. However, the official US line will be to express concern at today's developments and to portray the political track, not violence, as the way forward.
- 3. The initial view conveyed by the British to the White House includes these elements:
 - the decision was taken by the police;
 - it was taken for operational reasons, in view of the expected arrival of 50-60,000 protestors;
 - the consequences of not intervening would have been worse;
 - the decision followed prolonged unsuccessful attempts to reach agreement.

4. We have drawn attention to the statements by the Cardinal and Archbishop Eames that the police action can not be regarded as emanating from any discussions in which the Church leaders were involved.

END

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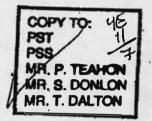
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Secure Fax

EMBASSY OF IRELAND 2234 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N.W. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008

10 July 1996

The confirmed White Home premire on m. Adams to deliver is hetpful



Dear Secretary

- Mr Hennessy and I met Nancy Soderberg and Mary Ann Peters at the White House 1. on Tuesday evening for a general review of recent developments (Tony Lake, the National Security Adviser, is on an official visit to China at present).
- 2. The overall sense we came away with was of a White House still strongly engaged in the process but clearly very frustrated by the failure of Adams to deliver to date. They found this particularly frustrating given that, in their view, all the measures necessary to enable another ceasefire to be called had been put in place by the two Governments on the 10th June. In the circumstances, Soderberg said that she had to begin to question Adams' influence over the Anny Council and, in effect, his capacity to deliver.
- 3. That said, the White House was staying with the process. In particular, they believed that, over the coming weeks, London, Dublin and Washington should continue, to the degree possible, to offer all possible assurances to Sinn Féin about the seriousness of the talks process.
- 4. Asked about the present British thinking, Soderberg said that London is still fully engaged. She did not think therefore that they would have any difficulty in conveying

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appropriate assurances to Sinn Féin. She added that (as Pat Hennessy has already reported) the White House was somewhat surprised that the British seemed relatively relaxed about the Manchester atrocity and the mortar attack in Germany, and that these incidents appeared to have little or no impact on their continuing commitment to the process.

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- 5. The White House, who tend to speak to Adams every week to ten days, intend making contact with the Sinn Féin President in the next few days. Asked about these conversations, Soderberg said that Adams tends to prevaricate and, in particular, to fail to give any real sense of the timeframe within which he can or will try to deliver. This, as indicated earlier, adds to the White House doubts about his capacity to deliver. At the same time, Soderberg believes that he remains committed to the process.
- 6. While they had not spoken to Hume for some time, Soderberg believed he was still optimistic about a renewed ceasefire. Soderberg said she would call him in a day or SO.
- 7. Soderberg also mentioned that there are one or two difficult issues on which the Administration will have to take a decision in the near future. These include a decision (by the Secretary of State) on whether to extradite Jimmy Smyth from California to Northern Ireland. In present circumstances, the Administration had really no option but to agree to the extradition. However, they were not sure what (legal) impact Smyth's application for political asylum will have on the extradition process. She indicated also that there was quite some political pressure building up on the issue and, as a result, we had a sense that the Administration would be happy

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to find a legal way out of taking an early decision.

Finally, and to sum up, the clear message from the White House was one of 8. encouragement to all of us to keep on trying over the next few weeks to see if it might be possible to put a ceasefire back in place. We agreed to stay closely in touch with the developing situation.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely alle

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Dermot Gallagher Ambassador

Seán Ó hUiginn Uas Secretary Anglo-Irish Division Department of Foreign Affairs 12/01/20 03:23

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MR. P. TEANON

R. T. DALITON

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ANDASAID NA, HÈIREANN TELEFHONE: (202) 462-3939 FAX: (202) 232-5993

11 July 1996

Embassy of Ireland 2234 Massachusetts Ave., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20008

DISCUSSION WITH NANCY SODERBERG

Dear Secretary

As conveyed, I had a long discussion on the phone with Nancy Soderberg about the situation in Portadown. She was as taken aback by developments as we were, and agreed that they would seek a full explanation from London for the reversal of the Chief Constable's decision.

Soderberg is deeply concerned about the implications of the decision. She wondered, however, how we might try to take matters forward now. I suggested that, as a first step, a Commission or some such body needed to be brought together quickly in order to draw up guidelines for future parades; this should help in particular to ensure that disasters such as Drumcree did not continue to happen on an annual basis.

I also laid particular emphasis on the importance of the RUC behaving in a fair and balanced manner in their handling of parades over the <u>coming weekend</u>. In this regard, I expressed particular concern about the situation in Belfast, given that the indications from there this afternoon seemed to suggest that the RUC approach might again be a partisan one.

We also discussed a number of other issues, including the position of Sinn Fein in the present circumstances. I falt it premature, however, to seek to review the wider situation at this

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procise time.

We will be meeting again later this evening when I accompany the Secretary to the White House for a planned discussion of Presidency issues. The Northern situation will inevitably come up at this meeting.

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Yours sincerely

Dermot Gallagher Ambassador

Sein Ó hUiginn Uas Searctary Anglo-Irish Division Department of Foreign Affairs

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