



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

Reference Code: 2021/108/23

Creator(s): Department of Justice

Accession Conditions: Open

Copyright: National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

● AMBASÁID NA HÉIREANN

TELEPHONE: (202) 462-3939

FAX: (202) 232-5993

EMBASSY OF IRELAND

2234 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008

12 January, 1998

To: A-I Division

From: Washington

For: Mr Colm O Floinn

From: Hennessy/O'Neill

c/c: *Press Section; Dermot Brangan (Castle Buildings); Geoffrey Keating (London); Adrian McDaid (CGNY)*

Re: White House Reaction to Propositions on Heads of Agreement

The Embassy has been in close touch with the NSC today as the Propositions document was tabled by the two Governments in Belfast.

Attached for your information are the comments made by the White House Press Secretary, Mike McCurry, at this afternoon's regular press briefing in response to a question from Mark Little of RTE. As you will see, McCurry noted the "very determined work" by the two Governments "to advance common thinking about how progress can be made at Stormont". He also stated that the Administration "applauds the work that both governments are doing to table a proposal".

We understand that, in order to highlight its reaction, the White House will most likely issue a formal statement later this evening. It will issue in the name of the Press Secretary and will be along the following lines:

- The President welcomes the initiative of the Irish and British Governments in moving the process forward;
- The President encourages the participants in the Talks - who have the responsibility to decide the substance of a peace settlement - to seize the moment and begin negotiations on the detail of an Agreement.

END

PAGES (2)

COPY TO

14/1/98

MR O'DONNELL

MR HICKEY

MR. BOUGHTON

MR CALLAGHAN

WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING ROOM

EXTRACT ON NORTHERN IRELAND FROM PRESS BRIEFING BY
McCURRY, 12 JANUARY 1998.

THE WHITE HOUSE, 12 JANUARY 1998.

Q Mike, the Northern Ireland peace talks resume today in Belfast. Do you think they have any chance of success given the recent violence there? And secondly, do you foresee any direct U.S. involvement in the talks in the weeks and months ahead?

MR. MCCURRY: Well, do I see any prospect for success? Yes, because the peoples of Ireland are so manifestly committed to peace and are so upset about the tragic return to violence that they've seen. At the same time that there has been violence and there's been a return to the kind of troubles that people in both families lament, there has also been very determined work by the government of the U.K. and the Republic of Ireland to advance common thinking about how progress can be made at Stormont. And the United States government applauds the work that both governments are doing to table a proposal. We think that that demonstrates the seriousness of purpose with which they take the talks, and we encourage the parties themselves to make best use of this inclusive process to address the issues that members in all sects face.

COPY TO
1411193

MR O'DONNELL

MR HICKEY

MR. BOUGHTON

~~MR. ...~~

MR CALLAGHAN

~~...~~