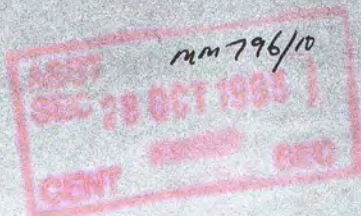


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NORTHERN IRELAND : EXCLUSION ORDER ON GERRY ADAMS

1. The Home Secretary signed an order on 19 October under the Prevention of Terrorism Act excluding Mr Gerry Adams, President of Sinn Fein, from the mainland of Great Britain. The order is likely to be delivered on 21 October, and may become public shortly thereafter.

2. You should not initiate discussion of this subject, but may draw freely on MIFT in response to questions. A fuller question and answer brief is being faxed to Dublin, Washington, and Limassol.

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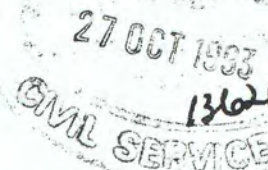
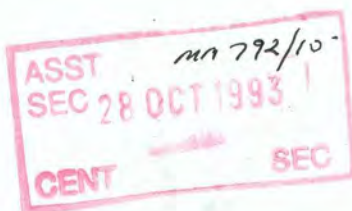
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MIPT: NORTHERN IRELAND: EXCLUSION ORDER AGAINST  
MR GERRY ADAMS

DEFENSIVE POINTS (MAY BE USED FREELY)

1. Why was Mr Adams excluded?

- Mr Adams was excluded because the Home Secretary was satisfied, as the Prevention of Terrorism Act requires him to be, that he is a person who is or has been concerned in the Commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism connected with the affairs of Northern Ireland.

2. Why choose this moment to exclude Mr Adams?

- Mr Adams was previously the subject of an exclusion order which was revoked upon his election to Parliament in 1983. At that time the Home Secretary decided that it would not be right to allow an exclusion order to continue if that would have the effect of inhibiting the movement of a duly elected Member of Parliament within the United Kingdom. Mr Adams lost his seat in last April's General Election and that consideration, therefore, no longer applies. The Home Secretary reviewed the case in the light of reports that Mr Adams was planning to visit Great Britain at the invitation of Mr Tony Benn MP. He based his decision on the evidence that he had at that time.

3. On what evidence did the Home Secretary base his decision?

- It is not possible, nor is it ever possible, to reveal the details about the intelligence on which this type of decision has to be made.

4. Why not charge him?

- Parliament has provided the power to make exclusion orders

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circumstances where, even though charges cannot be brought, the Home Secretary judges it expedient for the prevention of acts of terrorism to prevent the entry of any person whom he is satisfied is or has been involved in terrorism.

5. Is there a right of appeal?

- Under the Act, representations may be made against an exclusion order to an independent Adviser. This is not a judicial process and does not constitute an appeal. However the excluded person has the right to a personal interview with the Adviser. The Home Secretary is required to take the Adviser's report into consideration in re-considering the exclusion order where representations are made.

6. What happens if Adams decides to enter Great Britain?

- It is an offence for a person who has been served with an exclusion order to enter Great Britain. It is also an offence to be concerned in arrangements for facilitating entry of an excluded person into Great Britain or harbouring such a person after his entry.

7. What does this decision indicate about the Government's attitude towards the Hume/Adams talks?

- Nothing. Ministers have repeatedly made clear that it is for Mr Hume to judge whom he talks to.

8. Doesn't this mean the Government is not interested in 'peace'?

- The decision to exclude Mr Adams is consistent with the Government's approach has not changed. Of course the Government wants organised violence to end. But the initiative does not rest with the Government. No democratic government can be expected to engage in political talks with those who use or support the use of violence for political ends. That is a view on which Dublin and London are at one.

9. Isn't this simply political censorship?

- Mr Adams is free to publish his views and takes every opportunity to do so. But that does not mean that he has to be

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into Great Britain when the Home Secretary is satisfied that  
is someone who is or has been concerned in terrorism.

10. Is the Home Secretary really saying that Mr Adams would be  
involved in acts of terrorism here if he were let in?  
- That is not the issue. If the Home Secretary is satisfied that  
someone is or has been concerned in terrorism he can exclude  
someone from Great Britain. He may exercise his powers of  
exclusion "in such a way as appears to him expedient to prevent  
acts of terrorism" but that does not mean that he is restricted  
to excluding only those who are themselves about to commit an act  
of terrorism in Great Britain.

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