

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

31-Aug-1994 18:51 EDT

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RECORDS

(RECORDS@A1@OEOB)

FROM:

Stephens, Kathleen D.

(stephend@NSCSTF@OEOB@MSGATE@VA

SUBJECT:

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Message Creation Date was at 31-AUG-1994 18:35:00

NORTHERN IRELAND

Background

-- The IRA released a statement on August 31 promising the complete cessation of military operations.

-- Prime Minister Reynolds of Ireland and John Major both welcomed the announcement, and commended the IRA action, but Major has indicated the IRA must make clear the cease-fire is permanent.

-- Sinn Fein officials Joe Cahill and Patrick Treanor arrived in the United States on temporary single entry visas on August 30. They will be visiting several Eastern cities in order to garner support for an end to violence in Northern Ireland before returning on September 4th.

Key Points

-- As I indicated in my statement on August 31, the decision by the IRA to end its campaign of violence is immensely important.

-- I know I speak for the millions of Americans who feel special bonds of affection and kinship to Ireland and Great Britain when I say that we want to do all we can to support further progress toward peace and reconciliation in Ireland.

-- The IRA statement is indeed a watershed, offering the prospect of a permanent peace in Ireland.

-- Even in the best of circumstances, the really hard work still lies ahead.

-- But the fact that the Irish question will now be the subject of political negotiations rather than an armed struggle is an important and historic turning point.

-- Albert Reynolds and John Major have worked hard to bring the peace process this far. There must be no turning back, by any side, from the path of dialogue and negotiation.

-- I am pleased that the United States has been able to contribute to this

process, both through our encouragement of the Anglo-Irish process, our expanded dialogue with leaders of Northern Ireland's constitutional parties, and our efforts to support a permanent end to violence by all those who had used it for political goals.

-- My decision to allow officials from the Sinn Fein to come to the United States was tough, but has proved to be the right one.

-- I applaud the hard work of my National Security Adviser Tony Lake and members of his staff for their contributions to this successful effort.

-- We are looking at ways in which the United States can continue to be helpful, whether through continued dialogue with representatives of all the constitutional parties of Northern Ireland, or through some well-focused programs to help revive confidence in Northern Ireland's economic, social, and cultural potential.

-- We will do all we can. But the hard work, the real progress, remains to be completed by the two governments, and in the hearts and minds of the people of Northern Ireland. I am hopeful that they, and their leaders, will follow-through on this extraordinary opportunity for peace that now exists.

(If asked about reports of a trilateral U.S.-Irish-British Summit)

-- We have no plans at present, but it is an interesting idea which we may want to think about.

(If asked if you agree with British insistence that the IRA say explicitly the cease-fire is permanent, or other details about next steps in the peace process.)

-- As my statement on Wednesday emphasized, the end to violence must be permanent. The Irish and British governments agree completely on that. As to exactly when and under what formulations expanded political discussions begin, that is up to the Irish and British and other parties to work out.

(If asked about reported Unionist sense of betrayal)

-- Obviously, their concerns are important to this process. There can be no progress without Unionist participation and agreement. I salute the demonstrated willingness of moderate Unionist leaders to work for peace, and want to underscore its centrality to further progress. My staff has been in touch with Unionist leaders, and will continue to deepen this dialogue in coming days.

(If asked about reports that the U.S. promised \$200 million in aid for Northern Ireland, or visas for Sinn Fein/IRA officials, in exchange for the cease-fire.)

-- We now provide some \$20 million annually to the International Fund for Ireland. No decisions have been made on additional assistance. I have asked my staff to look at some ways in which we might assist Northern Ireland's economic and political revitalization.

Additional Header Information Follows

Date Created: 31-Aug-1994 18:35
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A1 Folder: AUG94

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Message Priority: FIRST_CLASS

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

01-Sep-1994 19:28 EDT

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RECORDS

(RECORDS@A1@OEOB)

FROM: Spalter, Jonathan H.

(spalterj@NSCSTF@OEOB@MSGATE@VAX

SUBJECT: RE: [UNCLASSIFIED]

Message Creation Date was at 1-SEP-1994 19:14:00

Right on, Tara. Add to my efforts to get positive spin on Clinton role by Miklasewski of NBC twice; long talk with Jill Dougherty of CNN and resulting emphasis on Clinton role; Cullen's largely positive piece in the Globe etc; Financial Times, Guardian, Independent, lots of Irish press.

Not to mention efforts underway with specialty press, influentials, and the potential op-ed I tasked out.

From: Sonenshine, Tara D.

To: Berger, Samuel

CC: /N, NonRecord at A1; @PRESS - Public Affairs; @UP - APNSA Special Assistants

Subject: [UNCLASSIFIED] northern ireland

Date: Thursday, September 01, 1994 05:31 PM

I understand that at this morning's Senior Staff meeting there was some concern raised about the lack of credit in the press for the President and the Administration's role in Northern Ireland.

Since our office spent all day yesterday calling reporters and editors around the country, I want to update you on the coverage.

1. Let me begin by saying that there is a tendency to judge coverage simply by what is in the Washington Post and the New York Times. Using that standard, we cannot claim success in persuading journalists to include in their coverage, the role of the President (and his National Security Adviser, in particular, in encouraging the Northern Ireland peace process along.

a--The New York Times did a fairly good editorial, but failed to give us public credit (despite the fact that we arranged for Sandy Verschow and others to background the Times Editorial Page Editor yesterday on the President's role. I do, think, however, that we MAY get some credit in the Sunday Times which is doing more behind-the-scenes analysis. (We did background John Darnton for that piece.)

b- The Washington Post was very disappointing. Having walked Tom Lippman

through a detailed chronology of Clinton's role (and having others background him to support the material we provided) Lippman chose to offer this gratuitous comment in his piece:

"White House aides took the unusual step of telephoning reporters to tell them how much effort Clinton and his national security adviser had invested in the Irish issue, chronicling a dozen meetings with visiting Irish and British figures over the past year."

In terms of columnists and editorial writers at the Post, we spent a good deal of time with MARY McGRORY yesterday and STEVE ROSENFELD. I am absolutely convinced that we will see a very positive McGrory column next week praising the President. McGrory will be talking to Nancy Soderberg for follow-up this weekend.

REGIONAL COVERAGE

If you use the nation as a better barometer of how we do than simply the Post and Times, the result of our calling around yesterday is far more impressive. Let me give you just a sample of the coverage:

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Article: US SAYS IT HELPED IN IRA DECISION

"Since February, Clinton and National Security Adviser Anthony Lake have pressed privately for a cease-fire. Clinton has personally talked to Major 15 times in the last month about it, officials said, and Lake held talks with officials on both sides. But the groundwork for the ceasefire may have been laid in February when Clinton, in a controversial step, granted a visa for Gerry Adams...Clinton overruled the State Department in granting the visa and was criticized by the British.

After Adams sent Clinton a letter March 31, Lake answered on behalf of the President, calling for a permanent ceasefire and negotiations with the British.

(article goes on and on about role of White House in meetings, phone calls, etc.)

LOS ANGELES TIMES

(piece on WHY the ceasefire..."The attitude of a new Democratic administration in Washington is also believed to have been a factor. The Clinton Administration was both interested in playing a low-key role to nudge the talks forward and gained credibility as a mediator within the IRA by allowing senior republican figures to travel to the US. Trips by Adams earlier this year and by well-known IRA activists Joe Cahill and Pat Treanor this week are believed to have boosted the IRA resolve to go forward with the cease-fire. In each of these circumstances, Clinton reportedly personally approved the decision to grant the visa."

BOSTON GLOBE

Clinton role--quotes Jean Kennedy Smith in a call to Clinton. "I told him he made an enormous difference here. It wouldn't have happened without him." Smith said Clinton...had helped move the peace process by backing the issuance of US visas to IRA officials."

One day's work is not enough to re-inforce the message that this Administration and this President went to great lengths to nurture this peace process along. The visit by Spring tomorrow will certainly re-inforce

the message. Jonathan Spalter is talking to Nancy Soderberg about other outreach events we can do.

Additional Header Information Follows

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Message Priority: FIRST_CLASS

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

02-Sep-1994 15:53 EDT

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RECORDS

(RECORDS@A1@OEOB)

FROM: Sonenshine, Tara D.

(sonensht@NSCSTF@OEOB@MSGATE@VAXB

SUBJECT: FW: [UNCLASSIFIED]Northern Ireland

Message Creation Date was at 2-SEP-1994 15:32:00

Dee--

Here is the note Tara wanted to be sure Nancy saw.

Thanks,
Natalie

From: Sonenshine, Tara D.

To: Berger, Samuel

CC: /N, NonRecord at A1; @PRESS - Public Affairs; @UP - APNSA Special Assistants

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