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Ireland-Dinkins Letter [November 11, 1993]

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NOVEMBER 11, 1993

MEMORANDUM

TO: NANCY
FR: TRINA
RE: THE LETTER TO DINKINS

Following up on our discussion last night, attached is the story which I told you would appear in today's Irish Times.

Also attached is the letter sent to Dinkins. The letter has been blown out of proportion by those who want to see John Hume fail.

I was approached yesterday by two Irish reporters. The one I told you I ran into last night said that it looks like John Hume is losing credibility here. I told him that was nonsense, those who have always supported John, continue to do so. But, with regard to the Hume/Adams initiative, we can't comment on what we haven't seen and to suggest that lack of comment means lack of support is ridiculous. John has chosen to keep the details under wraps -- that's his choice and maybe the best way to go about this, but we can't be expected to comment on what we don't know.

Going back to the Dinkins letter -- I think the problem with it is that it says more than was required. I simply would have stopped the letter with the first sentence in the second paragraph.

You should also know that the Irish government feels this letter put them in a bad spot.

I'll keep you informed of what I'm hearing.

Trina apologizes
for the barely
legible article -
She was faxed
a very bad copy
which didn't fax
very well over here.

AYORS OFFICE-RM.303 TEL:1-212-788-2900

Nov 10 93 13:10 No.002 P.02

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 30, 1993

*Brown
C. Pucci*

Dear David:

Thank you for your letter regarding a visa for Gerry Adams.

As you know, Adams has applied on several occasions over the past years for a U.S. visa, and each time, he has been refused under U.S. immigration law because of his involvement in terrorist activity. Adams' ineligibility could be waived by the Attorney General on the recommendation of the Secretary of State, but I supported her most recent decision not to do so in April of this year.

I continue to believe that we should not grant Adams a waiver. Credible evidence exists that Adams remains involved at the highest level in devising PIRA strategy. Moreover, despite his recent talks with Social Democratic and Labour Party leader John Hume, Adams still has not publicly renounced terrorism.

Unfortunately, recent events provide no grounds for reconsidering Adam's visa request. The PIRA's October 23 bombing in Belfast that killed ten people -- including two children -- has underscored the brutal and terrorist nature of the organization and undermined efforts to resume the political dialogue among the parties. Neither the British nor the Irish government favor granting Adams a visa.

My Administration's policy continues to support the early resumption of political talks as the most promising way to seek peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

The Honorable David N. Dinkins
Mayor of the City of New York
New York, New York 10007

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THE WHITE HOUSE

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Clinton blames Adams terrorist link for visa ban

From Cape O'Clary,
in Washington

PRESIDENT Clinton has accused the Sinn Féin president, Mr Gerry Adams, of being involved "at the highest level" in devising IRA strategy, and has repeated his refusal to grant Mr Adams a visa to enter the United States "because of his involvement in terrorist activity".

In a letter to the outgoing mayor of New York, Mr David Dinkins, who had invited Mr Adams, President Clinton indicated that the decision was influenced by both the Irish and British Governments.

Mr Clinton asserted: "Neither the British nor the Irish Government favour granting Adams a visa." The Irish Embassy in Washington had no comment on the reference to the Irish Government's role, but it is understood that no approach was made to the Embassy by the US administration about a visa for Mr Adams, and that an advice was issued.

In the letter, Mr Clinton drew his weight behind the British government's efforts to revive inter-party talks on Northern Ireland, and made clear that the White House had little sympathy for the Hume/Adams initiative.

Despite his recent talks with the SDLP leader, Mr John Hume, Mr Adams "has not publicly renounced terrorism", Mr Clinton said. In the letter, dated October 10th.

"My administration's policy continues to support the early resumption of political talks as the most promising way to seek peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland," he wrote. Without going into details, Mr Clinton indicated that he had been given intelligence briefings about Mr Adams's activities.

The Sinn Féin leader was ineligible for a visa because "of his involvement in terrorist activity", he wrote in the letter, a copy of which has been sent by *The Irish Times*.

The refusal of a visa could be waived by the Attorney

Dublin, London 'influenced decision'

Christopher, he said, "but I supported her most recent decision not to do so in April of this year". He continued to believe Mr Adams should not be granted a waiver.

"The IRA's October 23rd bombing in Belfast that killed 10 people... has underscored the brutal and terrorist nature of the organisation and undermined efforts to resume political dialogue among the

The full text of Mr Clinton's letter:

"Thank you for your letter regarding a visa for Gerry Adams."

"As you know, Adams has applied on several occasions over the past years for a U.S. visa, and each time he has been refused under U.S. immigration law because of his involvement in terrorist activity. Adams' eligibility could be waived by the Attorney General on the recommendation of the Secretary of State but I supported her most recent decision not to do so in April of this year."

"I speaking to others that we should not grant Adams a waiver. Clinton's position is that Adams remains involved at the highest level in devising IRA strategy. Moreover, given his recent only with David Hume and John Hume, Adams still has not publicly renounced terrorism."

"Unfortunately, recent events provide no grounds for recommending Adams' visa request. The IRA's October 23 bombing in Belfast that killed ten people... including two children... has underscored the brutal and terrorist nature of the organisation and undermined efforts to resume the political dialogue among the parties. Neither the British nor the Irish government have granted Adams a visa."

"My administration's policy continues to support the early resumption of political talks as the most promising way to seek peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland."

pages," Mr Clinton wrote.

The letter comes as a blow to the Ad Hume Committee for Irish Affairs in Congress, which last Thursday met Mr Clinton's National Security Council adviser, Mr Anthony Lake, to press, among other things, for a visa for Mr Adams and support for the Hume/Adams initiative.

Congressman Tom Lantos, who organised the 50-member meeting, said several members expressed disappointment that they could not get a pledge from the White House to issue a visa for Mr Adams.

Mr Martin Chabon of Irish Northern Aid said that Mr Adams was anxious to come to the US to put forward the case for the Hume/Adams peace initiative. "US pressure could be critical in this issue if it would put pressure on McCain to respond differently," he said.

The type of the letter, with its use of the British term "IRA" for Provisional IRA, was criticised by Irish-American activists pressing for a peace treaty, one of whom said it amounted to intervention by the Anglo-Irish process on the side of the British government, and was a signal that Mr Hume's initiative has been rejected by the White House, despite the SDLP leader's high standing in Washington.

The ad hoc committee's meeting with Mr Lake was the first in a series of discussions intended to open a dialogue between Irish-American legislators and the White House on the question of a special waiver for Mr Adams. Mr Clinton could not agree to a meeting where Mr Adams would be a participant.

Mr Lake said that meeting with the White House would be to discuss the special waiver for Mr Adams, but that it would be a meeting, not a negotiation, and that it would be held in the White House.

The Justice and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Brian Keohane, said that he would also hold Mr Clinton, an arrangement was made for such a meeting. Mr Clinton is expected to visit the White House in the near future. Mr Keohane said an

He made
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General, Mr. James H. ...
the recommendation of the
Secretary of State, Mr. Warren.

and ...
Northern Ireland.

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also page 7

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