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[Ireland]-Working File, June 1995

Staff Office-Individual:

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Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D. C. 20530

June 12, 1995

The Honorable Warren Christopher
Secretary of State
Room 7226
Washington, D.C. 20520

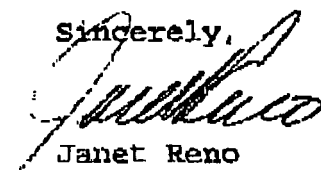
Dear Mr. Secretary:

In your letter of May 6, 1995, you forwarded the names of fifteen individuals you believed to be important to the unfolding peace process in Northern Ireland. I am writing to summarize actions I have taken related to that matter.

I have recently granted the visa waiver requests of several of the listed individuals: Joseph Cahill (on April 18, with fundraising prohibition applied); and Martin McGuinness, John White, Patrick Treanor, William Hutchinson, Denis Donaldson, and Joseph English (on May 18, with fundraising permitted by order of the President). The request of David Ervine, a Loyalist leader, for an ineligibility waiver with permission to raise funds was also granted on May 18; however, that action was based upon my earlier decision of March 10, 1995 to grant Mr. Ervine fundraising parity with Gerry Adams of Sinn Fein. In addition, on May 18 I granted the additional waiver request of William Irvine Mitchell, who was not on your list. I understand that most of these persons attended the White House Conference on Trade and Investment in Ireland held on May 24-26.

I can assure you that we shall continue to give careful, case-by-case attention to visa waiver requests received from the Department of State.

Sincerely,


Janet Reno

*Copy to Nancy Soderberg -
Nancy - State is preparing
another Christopher - Reno letter
to recommend 1 yr validity
visa - Kathy.*

THE FOUNDATION FOR A CIVIL SOCIETY

THE PROJECT ON JUSTICE IN TIMES OF TRANSITION

PROJECT CO-CHAIRS

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June 21, 1995

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PROJECT DIRECTOR
ERIC S. NONACS

Ms. Nancy Soderberg
National Security Council
The White House
Washington, DC 20504 USA

Dear Nancy:

On behalf of The Foundation for a Civil Society and the other cosponsors, we want to thank you for your generous assistance with the recent conference, "Reconciliation and Community: The Future of Peace in Northern Ireland."

As this initiative was coming together, you provided invaluable advice and insight into the situation in Northern Ireland. We are further indebted to you for the "pressure" you exerted on our behalf on potential participants and the various funding apparati in the U.S. Government.

Judging from the comments we have received since the Conference, this initiative was a significant contribution to the ongoing peace process in Northern Ireland. It is our sincere belief that this critical endeavor would not have taken place without your timely and frequent interventions.

Please find enclosed a sampling of the press coverage that the Conference received.

Thank you once again for your patience, your understanding and your help.

Best regards,



Timothy Phillips
Project CoChair



Eric S. Nonacs
Project Director

The Project on Justice in Times of Transition

enclosures

IRISH NEWS

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Wednesday June 7 1995

30p in Northern Ireland (40p elsewhere) ★

Edition: No. 37,879

'Glad to see you' says Sinn Fein leader as he shakes hands with Stormont minister

New milestone passed

By William Graham
Political Correspondent

A MILESTONE in the peace process was passed last night when British minister Michael Ancram publicly shook hands with Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness at a reconciliation conference in Belfast's Europa Hotel.

Unlike the Washington conference where the handshakes took place behind closed doors this time a British minister and Mr Adams posed smiling in front of the cameras.

As photographers pushed forward to capture the handshake Mr McGuinness joked to Mr Ancram that this was not conducive to a civilised conversation.

Peace on top of talks agenda at conference

Mr Ancram replied that he hoped that they would be able to continue their dialogue in the exploratory talks.

Mr Adams told the minister that it was important to move forward into all-party talks in order to develop the peace process.

However Mr Ancram reiterated the value of the exploratory dialogue with the Sinn Fein delegation at Stormont and hoped that this would continue shortly.

As the brief exchange ended the Sinn Fein president said to Mr Ancram:

"Glad to see you - good luck."

Speaking afterwards to journalists Mr Adams noted the symbolism of this latest handshake but again called on the British government to move the talks into inclusive all party dialogue. He said it was important to get all the parties together under one roof.

"Some of the media have a fetish about handshakes but let us now put that to bed and move the situation forward," Mr Adams said.

When questioned about the handshake Mr Ancram smiled and said: "I shake hands with people I meet. And I welcome people here at tonight's conference."

The minister stressed the importance to Mr Adams of seeing movement and flexibility in the exploratory dialogue.

Earlier in his address to the Reconciliation and Community Conference Mr Ancram said he believed that we are on the threshold of a permanent, just and democratic peace in Northern Ireland.

"Flexibility on all sides will be required if change for the better for everyone is to be achieved," he said.

Mr Ancram said that they must create a just and democratic peace through policies which replace the politics of confrontation with those of inclusion. And he said that the process of peace was not a market place in which trade-offs and bargains may be struck.

While Mr Ancram last night condemned punishment beatings or threatened exclusions by paramilitaries it was significant that he made no mention in his speech of arms decommissioning.



● SHAKE HANDS ... Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness greet political development minister Michael Ancram at the Europa Hotel, Belfast, yesterday. Picture: Press Association



● TOP MEN ... Taniste Dick Spring and ex-Costa Rican leader Oscar Arias at the conference. Picture: Hugh Russell

On the overall peace process Mr Ancram said it cannot be allowed to stall for lack of will. He said the government were pursuing dialogue in its various forms and stages "along the road to comprehensive and inclusive round table discussions."

It is understood that Sinn Fein have now received a reply to their letter requesting a further meeting between

Mr Adams and secretary of state Sir Patrick Mayhew.

But according to sources no imminent meeting is planned and the British side have apparently signalled that the dialogue should continue through the exploratory talks.

Last night's conference was also addressed by

Taniste Dick Spring who underlined the need for compromise and flexibility in the peace process.

Mr Spring said: "The two governments cannot force or coerce the parties to agree a new set of arrangements."

"What we can and must do, however, is to use all the resources at our disposal to encourage a new framework

of cooperation and partnership that places neither community in Northern Ireland in a position of privilege or special status over the other.

"We must find a basis for consensus between the unionist and nationalist population both within Northern Ireland and on the island as a whole," Mr Spring said.

Visitors to the conference were welcomed by Professor Trevor Smith, vice-chancellor of the University of Ulster.

The keynote address at the conference was given by Oscar Arias, the former president of Costa Rica. He stressed the need for forgiveness and reconciliation in Northern Ireland as well as negotiation and compromise.

- 7 JUN 1995

THE IRISH TIMES, Wednesday, June 7, 1995



Mr Michael Ancram, the Northern Ireland Minister for Political Development, shaking hands yesterday with Sinn Fein leaders Mr Gerry Adams (centre) and Mr Martin McGuinness (right) in the first public handshake between a British minister and Sinn Fein

Minister braves glare of publicity for first public SF handshake

By Dick Grogan,
Northern Editor

IN THE glare and heave of a media rough-and-tumble, the latest symbolic step in the Northern peace dialogue took place last night when the Sinn Fein president, Mr Gerry Adams, shook hands publicly with a British Minister, Mr Michael Ancram, at the opening of a prestigious international conference in Belfast's Europa Hotel.

It was another tortuous delivery, with both men surrounded by a frantic maul of television crews and reporters, who had dogged their footsteps waiting to capture the image of a brief encounter an-

ticipated as inevitable once the two arrived under the same roof.

Ironically, the lights in the hotel's crowded Library Bar went out as the two approached each other, and the momentary meeting was lit by flash-guns and television lamps.

Afterwards, Mr Adams said: "We have seen the symbolism; let's move forward into the substance," and urged the British government to move forward to all-party negotiations.

Mr Ancram commented: "I always shake hands with people whom I meet," and he said he had told Mr Adams he hoped the exploratory dialogue between Sinn Fein and himself could

continue.

Mr Martin McGuinness, who also met the Northern Minister for Political Development, revealed later that Sinn Fein yesterday received a reply to Mr Adams's recent letter to the Northern Secretary, Mr Sir Patrick Mayhew, in which the Sinn Fein president had requested a further meeting with Sir Patrick.

He would not say what the letter contained, as it had not yet been considered. However, according to political sources, such a meeting is unlikely to take place in the immediate future, and the next step will be to attempt to reach agreement on a resumption of the talks at Stormont between

a Sinn Fein delegation and a British government team headed by Mr Ancram.

The conference has brought together a range of experienced peace negotiators and policy-makers from areas of previous and ongoing conflict in various parts of the world.

Over the next two days, they will debate aspects of conflict resolution with Northern Ireland political and community representatives and seek to share their experience of transition from civil conflict to peace.

The conference, organised jointly by the US Foundation for a Civil Society and the University of Ulster, was opened by a Nobel

Peace Prize winner, Dr Oscar Arias, former president of Costa Rica and architect of the 1987 peace agreement in Central America.

In an impassioned and eloquent address, he urged that Northern Ireland should "join all of us who have bound our wounds and renewed ourselves". Dr Arias appealed for the peace to be made permanent and for those who had weapons to accept the challenge of giving up their guns.

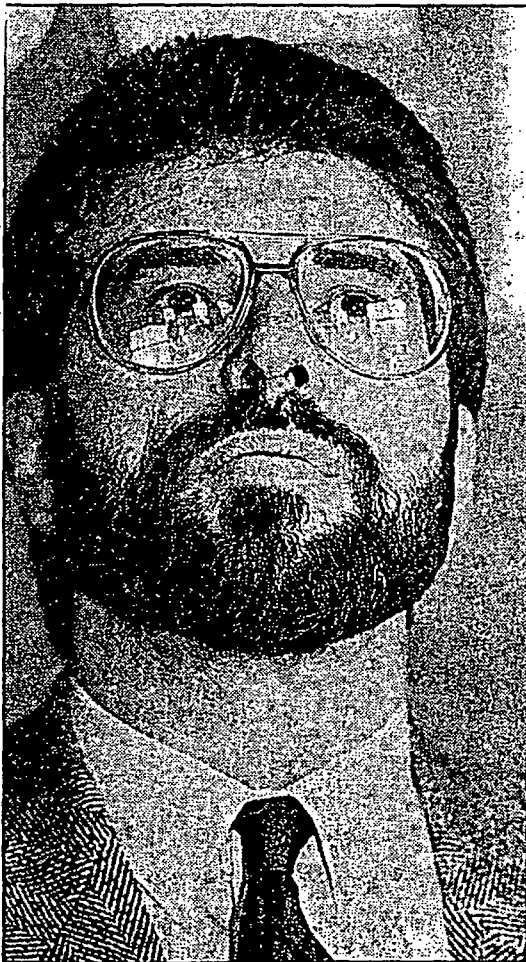
The Tanaiste, Mr Spring, also addressed the opening session and said he believed that in a climate of peace the will to bridge existing divisions now existed.

- 6 JUN 1995

News/Politics

7

Handshake encounter



Gerry Adams: Conference.

By Vincent Kearney,
Political Correspondent

GERRY Adams could shake hands with a British government minister in public for the first time tonight.

THE Sinn Féin president and Political Development Minister Michael Ancram are due to attend a conference at the Europa Hotel.

Government and republican sources today said a brief greeting between the two men, including a handshake, was possible.

Such a greeting would outrage unionists, who condemned Secretary of State Sir Patrick Mayhew for shaking hands with Mr Adams before and after a meeting during the Washington investment conference two weeks ago.

But government sources pointed out that Mr Ancram had not been put off by the prospect of unionist criticism when he shook hands privately with Martin McGuinness at Stormont last month.

"We would not expect Michael Ancram to walk away from the situation if he happens to bump into Gerry Adams at this event. It is not his style to hide," said one.

A republican source said he expected the Sinn Féin leader to greet the minister if they meet.

"Gerry Adams will not be discourteous and we would not expect Michael Ancram to be. There will be a lot of people at the conference so they may not meet, but anything is possible," he said.

■ Ancram and Adams likely to meet in public

The minister and Mr Adams are due to attend the opening of a special international conference to discuss peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland.

Experienced peace negotiators from throughout the world will be joined by a number of former terrorists and representatives of the British and Irish governments.

One of President Bill Clinton's senior aides, assistant national security adviser Nancy Soderberg, the American Ambassador to the Republic, Jean Kennedy-Smith, and Tanaiste Dick Spring are expected to attend.

Others taking part include representatives of the ANC, PLO, former terrorist leaders from El Salvador, negotiators from the South African government and Israeli politicians.

In all, more than 20 leading international figures from 11 countries will take part. More than 300 people from Northern Ireland, including representatives of all political parties and the main churches, have also been invited.

The organisers said they hope the conference, which ends on Thursday, would help show people in the province that no problem was beyond solving.



Michael Ancram: 'Not one to shy away'

Derry councillors for major peace conference

NEXT WEEK in Belfast, Derry City Councillors, the S.D.L.P.'s Mark Durkan and Mitchel McLaughlin of Sinn Féin, will join senior Government officials, former guerillas and peace negotiators from South Africa, the Middle East, South America and Eastern Europe for the first major international conference on peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland.

In an unprecedented gathering of diverse views and individuals, more than 300 prominent leaders from throughout Northern Ireland are expected to take part in the conference, including key members of every political party in Northern Ireland, as well as senior representatives of the religious, non-Governmental, activist, business and media communities.

Many high-profile observers from Britain, the Republic and the United States will also attend the meeting.

The conference, "Reconciliation and Community: The Future of Peace in Northern Ireland", will bring to Northern Ireland more than 20 key international leaders, former guerilla commanders, and policy-makers from 11 countries, including many that have recently undergone similar transitions from civil conflict to peace.

The conference itself will

take place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of next week at the Europa Hotel in Belfast.

In an effort to reinforce the current peace process in Northern Ireland, the international participants will share their personal experience on many of the critical issues which have remained sticking points during the unfolding process, including building trust in the negotiation process, the demobilisation and reintegration of former combatants, policing in a post-conflict situation, and the need for memory and acknowledgement.

The conference will be sponsored by the New York-based Project on Justice in Times of Transition of the Foundation of a Civil Society, the University of Ulster and INCORE (Joint International Programme on Conflict Resolution and Ethnicity), a

University and the United Nations University.

Participants

Featured international participants include — Oscar Arias, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and former President of Costa Rica; Cyril Ramaphosa, secretary general of the African National Congress and former chief negotiator for the A.N.C.; Roelof Meyer, the chief negotiator of the De Klerk Government and the Minister for Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development of South Africa; Dullah Omar, a senior A.N.C. negotiator and the current Minister of Justice of South Africa; Joaquin Villalobos, former leader of the rebel Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) and currently leader of the Democratic Party of El Salvador; Ana Guadalupe Martinez, the vice president of the National Assembly of El Salvador and a former FMLN guerilla leader; Aleksander Kwasniewski, an M.P. and a principal negotiator for the last communist government in Poland; Michael Longley, Northern Ireland poet and writer; and Raymond Kelly, former Police Commissioner of New York City.

Through a series of panels and discussions featuring

these and other prominent international leaders, the conference participants — political, community and religious leaders from across Northern Ireland — will have the opportunity to examine their own process of transition while listening to the experience of others who have ended civil conflicts and built

peace.

Derry man, Paul Arthur, who is a professor at the University of Ulster and one of the conference's principal organisers, said: "We hope that this exercise will allow the citizens of Northern Ireland to gain greater confidence in the process of reconciliation and dialogue, as

well as advance the broader goal of a lasting peace in Northern Ireland".

The Project on Justice in Times of Transition was founded in 1991 to assist countries making the transition from dictatorship and civil conflict to democracy and peace.

Through consultations,

workshops and conferences, the Project has addressed the challenges of facing the past, promoting reconciliation, establishing the rule of law, democracy-building and civil society development in El Salvador, Nicaragua, South Africa and throughout Eastern and Central Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Extract from:
BELFAST TELEGRAPH

- 5 JUN 1995

Ex-terror leaders come for peace conference

FORMER terrorists from throughout the world will take part in a conference in Belfast tomorrow.

They will join experienced peace negotiators, representatives of the British government and local politicians to discuss peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland.

Those taking part include representatives of the ANC, PLO, former terrorist leaders from El Salvador, negotiators from the South African government and Israeli politicians.

Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams is expected to be among the local politicians attending.

In all, more than 20 leading international figures from 11 countries will take part. More than 300 people from Northern Ireland, including representatives of all political parties and the main churches, have also been invited.

The main sponsor of the event, the New York-based Foundation for a Civil Society, said its aims included building trust in the negotia-

tion process and discussing policing in a post-conflict situation.

One of the key organisers, University of Ulster lecturer Paul Arthur, said he hoped the three-day conference would advance the peace process.

"We hope that this exercise will allow the citizens of Northern Ireland to gain greater confidence in the process of reconciliation and dialogue, as well as advancing the broader goal of a lasting peace in Northern Ireland," he said.



C6

103 South Parade,
Belfast, BT7 2GN

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(0232) 646008

Extract from:
ULSTER NEWS LETTER
- 1 JUN 1995

Conference sets scene for peace progress

SENIOR government officials, former terrorists, and peace negotiators from South Africa, the Middle East, Central and south America, and Eastern Europe will convene in Belfast next month for an international conference of peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland.

Over 300 prominent people from the Province including key members of political parties, churches, and the business community, are expected to take part in the seminar being held between June 6 and 8.

High profile observers from Great Britain, Eire, and US will be at the conference which is being sponsored by the New York based Project on Peace in Times of Transition of the Foundation for a Civil Society, the University of Ulster, the Joint International Programme on Conflict Resolution and Ethnicity and the United Nations University.

More than 20 interna-

tional leaders, former terrorist commanders, and policy makers from 11 countries, including many which have recently undergone similar transitions from civil conflict to peace, are expected to attend.

The international participants will share their personal experience on many critical issues which have remained sticking points during the unfolding peace process in the Province, including building trust, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants, policing in a post-conflict situation.

Paul Arthur, professor of politics at the University of Ulster, and one of the conference's principal organisers said: "We hope that this exercise will allow the citizens of Northern Ireland to gain greater confidence in the process of reconciliation and dialogue, as well as advance the broader goal of a lasting peace in Northern Ireland."

John M. Carey Insurance Agency, Inc.

126 A Pleasant Valley Street

Methuen, Massachusetts 01844

(508) 685-7542

5/10/95

Dear Nancy:

Your mother has forwarded the article from The Irish Times, 9/17/94, all about you. Congratulations for the success of the cease fire and its holding to date. Let us hope the Paisley-like forces will not prevail as Ulster moves toward a just society. I am always impressed by the fact that when Ireland did finally become free, the Anglo-Irish did not suffer a blood bath in revenge for the awful history of oppression.

Hopefully you get some good R&R as you go along. I recall you worked just as hard in the Kennedy office

We are O.K. here. Suzy's recuperation has taken too long. She is still in therapy (physical), but her progress has been slow. She is anxious to get back to school, but the pain doesn't allow her to do the normal things. She has been a good sport through this long year plus, and she does everything required of her. It is just one of those nagging things which takes its own sweet time.

Stay well; we'll look forward to more good press from the international scene.

Your fan club



AMBASÁID NA HÉIREANN

TELEPHONE: (202) 462-3939

FAX: (202) 232-5993



EMBASSY OF IRELAND

2234 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008

1 June, 2008

Dear Nancy

I had very good reason to thank you on many occasions in the past two years for making such an invaluable contribution to peace and political progress in Ireland. Yet again, after last week's historic and quantum leap forward, we are deeply in your debt. It was an outstanding, an extraordinary occasion and one which succeeded in bringing all sides within the same four walls, and often into lively discussion, in a way that unfortunately would not be possible in Ireland.

So, Nancy, once again the vision, style and quality of judgment of the President has made a substantial difference and has, as I said, given the process a quantum push forward. We are deeper, deeper appreciative.

But, to-day, I simply wished to pay the warmest tribute, and say the sincerest thank you, to you, Nancy. Congratulations on a superb success.

Yours,

Donal V.

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

PERSONAL

Ms Nancy Soderberg
Deputy Assistant to the President
And NSC Staff Director
The White House
WASHINGTON DC 20500

