

MEMORANDUM

TO: HRC

FROM: Lissa, Erika

RE: Interview with BBC Belfast "Just Jones"

DATE: April 10, 2000

You are scheduled for a 15 minute radio interview Monday afternoon with George Jones, the host of "Just Jones," an afternoon phone-in and music program on BBC Radio Ulster. Jones was originally set to interview you in New York around St. Patrick's Day, but we were unable to accommodate his request due to scheduling problems.

Your interview today will be pre-recorded to air April 14 in conjunction with an April 15 television documentary Jones has produced on his visit to New York City for St. Patrick's Day. The general purpose of your interview is to deliver a goodwill message to the people of Northern Ireland. Jones also would like to discuss your visits to Northern Ireland, the peace process, your impressions of New York and your experience there on St. Patrick's Day.

"Just Jones" is one of the top-rated radio programs on BBC Radio Ulster. The show's audience includes all age groups, from children to senior citizens, and the content is typically light-hearted in nature.

The interview will be done over an ISDN phone line (to improve sound quality) from the studio in **Room 415**.

Attached are brief talking points and background information from the NSC on the April 8 anniversary of the Good Friday Accord.

TALKING POINTS

- The United States has great hope and confidence that the peace process momentum can be restored. We encourage all parties involved to continue to forge ahead to fully implement all elements of the accord.
- The United States strongly supports the peace process; President Clinton will continue to do anything he can to foster goodwill and cooperation between key parties in order to move the peace process along.
- Historic accomplishments have taken place in the two years since adoption of the Good Friday Accord and we are confident that more progress can be made to further improve the lives of the people of Northern Ireland.
- We have seen great changes since the accord was reached: Paramilitary ceasefires remain intact, constitutional reforms have been made and political institutions providing for local rule are under development.
- It is vital to the peace process that the ceasefires remain intact to encourage further progress in meeting all aspects of the Good Friday Accord.

Norland, Richard B. (EUR)

→ Erica Butchell
67805

From: Norland, Richard B. (EUR)
Sent: Monday, April 10, 2000 9:00 AM
To: Crowley, Philip J. (PRESS)
Cc: @BLINKEN; @PRESS - Public Affairs; Steinberg, James
Subject: RE: URGENT REQUEST FOR PRESS GUIDANCE [UNCLASSIFIED]

2 Themes: (1) how much has
been accomplished.
(2) U.S. hope &
confidence that
momentum can be
restored. Given.

DRAFT: Northern Ireland - Anniversary of Good Friday Accord

Q. April 8 marked the second anniversary of the Good Friday Accord -- where are we in the peace process?

A. Historic accomplishments have taken place over the past two years, and with additional good will and compromise by key parties, all aspects of the Good Friday Accord can still be implemented. With each passing day, Northern Ireland continues to move toward greater normality.

- Paramilitary ceasefires are still in place; no serious party believes its aims can be achieved through violence.
- Constitutional reforms have been enshrined that guarantee there will be no changes in territorial status without the consent of the majority.
- Paramilitary prisoners have been released and are being reintegrated into civilian life.
- The presence of military forces in everyday life has dropped significantly.
- Reforms are underway to make policing and the judicial system acceptable to all sides of the community.
- Prospects have been opened up for unprecedented cooperation on economic and social issues across the border and between the islands of Ireland and Britain.
- Political institutions providing for local rule have been established, and will -- we hope -- be restored to full operation in the near future.
- Inward investment and local job creation have been on the upswing during the climate of increasing confidence.

Q. But there has been no decommissioning of paramilitary weapons -- if this is still the case on May 22 [two years from approval of the GFA by referendum] can't it be said the Accord is dead?

A. Absolutely not -- refer you to points above. GFA is contributing to improvements in the lives of the people of Northern Ireland and will continue to do so.

- Clearly there are still aspects of the Accord that have yet to be implemented in full, and precisely for this reason we call on all parties to take the steps needed to build confidence on each side and restore momentum to this process.
- The United States strongly supports the process; President Clinton will do anything he can to help the governments and the parties as they consider the difficult steps ahead.
- Meanwhile, it is vital that the ceasefires remain intact and that the brutal, barbaric practice of so-called "punishment attacks" be brought to an end immediately.

-----Original Message-----

From: Crowley, Philip J. (PRESS)
Sent: Monday, April 10, 2000 8:01 AM
To: @ALLNSC - NSC Staff
Subject: URGENT REQUEST FOR PRESS GUIDANCE [UNCLASSIFIED]

Here's what we'll need for today:

@ASIA: How does USG feel about Korea summit? What are prospects for success?

@ASIA: Has the USG underestimated or ignored extent of PRC's concern over Taiwan?

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