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Forward 29/1/94



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

29 January 1994

Dear Robin,

ADAMS

Tony Lake telephoned me at 2200 local on 29 January. He said that he had received my message of last night. He just wanted to let me know that the Americans were "going back to Adams again". They were not approaching him directly, and they did not want to get into a negotiation.

I said that I assumed that they would be asking Adams to use the terms they had put to him yesterday. Lake gave a rather fuzzy answer, leaving the impression that Adams would not be required to use the exact words in the US formula.

I pointed out that, if Adams had been able to accept the American requirements, he would have done so yesterday. He would give the Americans more weasel words which would not in reality have the necessary meaning. I said that we had been watching him do this for a long time. I urged the Americans to keep the crossbar at its present level. Lake again replied opaquely, but said he would keep me informed.

Comment

For all Lake's protestations that the Americans are not engaging in a negotiation, it appears that the White House, under the pressure of the Irish/American lobby, is giving Adams yet another opportunity to "clarify" his position. It is also evident that they are prepared to consider some purported paraphrasing of their terms out of Adams's mouth.

Presumably the next stage will be another public statement from Adams, followed by a debate between the different American constituencies as to

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whether or not it is good enough (with the White House desperate to find in favour of Adams). If your contacts have not yet tipped you off, you may wish to get in touch with them now and jack up yet another counter-attack. Let me know if, when and how you think we should intervene again from this side.

Words almost fail me! But at least this farce cannot go on much longer as the conference is only two days away.

I am copying this letter by fax to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Resident Clerk and NIO Duty Officer (for John Sawers and Jonathan Stephens respectively), and to the No 10 Press Office.

Yours ever,

E. M. Lyne

rs. **RODERIC LYNE**

Sir Robin Renwick KCMG

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