

From : Rod Lyne  
Date : 31 January 1994

PRIME MINISTER

I promised to show you what a message to Clinton might look like.

I attach a draft.

If you wanted to send it, we could have the message on Clinton's desk when he starts work on Tuesday morning, 1 February - ie the day of the New York conference.

Inevitably, any message on this subject is bound to have a strong whiff of sour grapes. But I have tried to put in some constructive points, designed to extract some restorative action from the Administration.

The main advantage of the message would be to show Clinton that he has reached the limits of our tolerance, and should not take us for granted. The downside is that it will do nothing for the personal relationship - though perhaps it is time there was some clearing of the air.

If you are inclined to go ahead, I suggest that we send the message via Robin Renwick, and ask him to deliver it only if he and the Foreign Secretary agree with it.

Roderic

RODERIC LYNE

fmessage.sm

For background, see also Washington's fax below this.  
I also attach my own 2 messages to Lake - before & after the decision.

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MESSAGE TO BE SENT BY FCO TELEGRAM

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE PRESIDENT

Dear Bill,

THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS  
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)  
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

Tony Lake will, I am sure, have told you how strongly we disagree with the decision to admit Gerry Adams to the United States. He has been closely associated with terrorism for two decades. In the Joint Declaration, he was offered a route into the democratic process, and into negotiations with us and with the Irish Government. He and his movement have not taken it. As you will know the evidence is that the IRA intend to continue their strategy of terrorism, and do not have the courage to make peace and compete in the democratic arena.

Adams has not renounced violence in his statements over the weekend. He has said in public that the United States did not ask him to renounce violence. He has made no new commitment on any point of substance.

The admission of Adams without such commitments and without an end to IRA violence is being seen as a major victory for Adams in his campaign to evade the Joint Declaration. Unionists who have acquiesced in the Joint Declaration are demanding a change of course. We shall have great difficulty now in maintaining the pressure on both sides of the community to accept the Joint Declaration as a common basis for peace - pressure in which the support of the United States was previously so helpful.

I do not wish to labour these points, all of which we put to your people before the decision was taken. I do not underestimate the pressures on you from powerful advocates of the Nationalist cause in the United States. However, by

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definition they cannot take an objective view. Nor do they have a close understanding of the very delicate political situation in Northern Ireland.

I would value your assistance in ensuring that no further damage is done to our peace initiative. The most immediate aim will, I hope, be to try to ensure that pressure is regenerated during and after the visit of Gerry Adams for the Provisionals to end violence unequivocally and unconditionally. Adams will try to use his visit to the United States as a platform for his justification of continuing violence, and his mendacious argument that Northern Ireland needs to be "demilitarised" for violence to end. I hope that during his visit the Administration will make clear, very publicly, that it has no sympathy for this line of argument. I hope that your spokesmen will criticise Adams for his refusal to renounce violence, and will state clearly that violence should have ended with the Joint Declaration.

It would be most helpful if you could also make clear that the admission of Adams was a wholly exceptional event, and that he and other terrorist leaders will not be admitted to the United States again until violence has ended. This will provide them with some incentive to make peace.

Douglas Hurd will, I know, have discussed these matters in more detail with Warren Christopher and Tony Lake. I hope that those conversations will bring our perceptions closer together. I will be happy to bring you up to date when we meet in a month's time.

Yours sincerely

John

fclinton.sm

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