



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

[Sent Ann on 31 Jan.
Evening Standard
article sent as
postscript]

From the Private Secretary

31 January 1994

Dear Tony,

GERRY ADAMS

Your decision to admit Gerry Adams has been the lead item on radio and television broadcasts here today. Mainstream Unionists as well as other commentators have expressed their anger in very strong terms. If Sinn Fein do not now make a substantive move towards peace - and Adams's justification of violence in his weekend statement almost points in the opposite direction - a major repair job will be needed to try to get the Joint Declaration back on the road.

I thought that you should see the front page stories from some of today's newspapers. Articles from the Guardian, the Times and the Daily Mail are attached. You will note that Adams is trumpeting the fact that he was not asked by the United States to renounce violence.

yours ever,
Roderic

RODERIC LYNE

Mr. Anthony Lake

US grants entry visa to Adams

Twenty-year ban is overturned

Martin Walker in Washington, David Sharrock in Belfast, Joe Joyce in Dublin and Stephen Bates

THE US government spurned British urgings and announced last night that it would grant a visa for the Sinn Fein president, Gerry Adams, to visit America for a conference on Northern Ireland in New York this week.

The visa will allow him to launch a media blitz on behalf of the republican cause but not to raise funds.

Officials said Mr Adams will be allowed to stay only 48 hours, be barred from travelling more than 25 miles from New York and not allowed to engage in "direct or indirect fund raising".

The ostensible purpose of his trip is to attend a conference of the National Committee on American Foreign Policy, a non-profit group whose honorary chairman is the former secretary of state Henry Kissinger.

Some members of Congress opposed the visa as a dangerous concession that could only result in political comfort for the IRA. The US decision followed a statement in which Mr Adams declared himself to be against all forms of violence in Northern Ireland, "including the violence of the British army and security forces", and said he looked forward to the disbandment of the IRA.

Mr Adams has been repeatedly denied admission to the United States over the past 20 years on grounds of his alleged involvement in terrorism.

Ulster Unionists and Conservative backbenchers will be concerned that American-Irish politicians will give him a publicity platform and effectively condone terrorism.

The British government said that Sinn Fein would be judged by deeds, not words. A spokesman said: "Adams said in a statement that he wants to end violence and is working towards supporting the Downing Street declaration, and it is on that basis that he is being admitted, under very strict conditions for 48 hours. The British government does not issue visas for admission to the US."

Labour's Northern Ireland spokesman, Kevin McNamara, said: "We are against exclusion orders in principle. It is purely an internal domestic matter for the United States government, and I have no views about it."

Ken Maginnis, Ulster Unionist MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, who refused to go to the same conference if Mr Adams was there, said last night: "My understanding was that two conditions were being imposed on Mr Adams, firstly that he accepted the Downing Street declaration and secondly that the IRA would cease violence. I cannot believe that he has accepted either of those."

Sammy Wilson, spokesman for the hardline Democratic Unionist Party, last night deplored the US decision. "It's quite clear since the declaration was signed on December 15 that the payoff for the IRA was coming. They've had their secret talks with the British government, the broadcasting ban in the Irish Republic has been lifted and even the Americans are in the payoff too."

John Hume, the SDLP leader whose talks with Mr Adams started the peace initiative which culminated in the Downing Street declaration, will be at the conference, which will give Mr Adams the opportunity to reinvigorate the US support for Sinn Fein, and to appear on as many US TV news and talk-shows as he can squeeze in.

The Clinton administration had said last week that its decision would depend on a statement of Mr Adams's views on violence and his readiness to support the peace efforts of John Major and the Irish government.

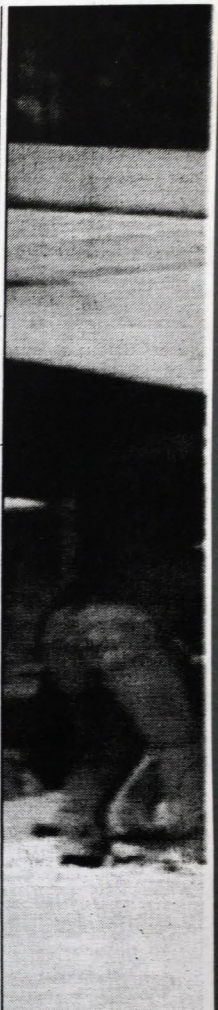
British officials in Washington last night were putting the best face on their defeat, suggesting that if Mr Adams lived up to his statement, Northern Ireland would benefit. If he did not, the US government would learn its lesson, and Sinn Fein would lose credibility.

President Clinton was under strong pressure from congressmen with influential Irish-American constituencies, and from Democratic senators Teddy Kennedy of Massachusetts and Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York, whose chairmanship of the finance committee gives him a near-stranglehold on Mr Clinton's domestic agenda.

Before the announcement from Washington, Mr Adams had denied he had renounced violence as a condition of getting the visa. He said in Dublin that he had had "a very interesting exchange of views" with a senior US official which showed that the Clinton administration was acquainting itself with the republican position.

The Irish government remained aloof from the controversy sticking to its formal line that it was entirely a matter for Washington. It is believed to have cautioned the Americans against allowing Mr Adams too much latitude.

Reynolds loses patience, page 2



Rescue workers recover the

Five British

Martin Linton

FRENCH POLICE began an inquiry last night into the worst Alpine skiing accident for many years, in which five British doctors and a French guide were killed in an avalanche near the resort of Val d'Isere.

A sixth doctor watched as his friends were swept away and suffocated by snow 10 feet deep. He built an igloo to avoid freezing as he waited 24 hours to be rescued.

The avalanche occurred at 11am on Saturday high up in the mountains and the absence

THE GUARDIAN 31.1.94

Briton held in aid

News in brief

Protest over EU

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and is expected to
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above the French
f Tignes. Dr Ackner
riends, skiing off-
descended to 2,500
en a slab of snow 40

with a medical competence as
part of the Government-sponsored
Post-graduate Education
Allowance scheme.

At 9am on Saturday, the
doctors left La Forêt Hotel for
an outing planned as the
climax of their trip. Led by M
Ferrier, an experienced guide
from the ski school Snow Fun,
they headed for the village of
Tignes, before reaching a

edge of the fall and was buried
less deeply. No other skiers
saw the accident.

M Ferrier would have been
carrying a two-way radio and
all members of the party
would have carried avalanche
bleepers. But when Dr Ackner
finally dug himself free after
some 90 minutes he could find
no trace of his colleagues and

of the British party who arri-
ved in London last night, said
French authorities should in-
vestigate why it took 24 hours
for the alarm to be raised.

"I am very concerned; it was
far too long to survive in those
conditions," he said. The party
should have been in radio
contact: "Why wasn't a search
party organised that day?"

On Saturday, skiers awoke
to sunny, blue skies, with the
wind restricted to the east
while the valleys had calmer
conditions. But local instruc-
tors still regarded conditions
as dangerous: heavy winds
had redistributed the snow,
creating an accumulation of
up to 1.5 metres in places,
which is considered deep.

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US visa for Adams angers No 10

By MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

PRESIDENT Clinton rebuffed and
angered the British Government last night
by granting Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein
leader, a restricted visa to enter America
to attend a conference on Northern
Ireland in New York tomorrow.

The President did so despite his
Administration's failure to elicit from Mr
Adams the unequivocal renunciation of
violence and declaration of support for
the Anglo-Irish peace effort that it had
agreed with Britain should be the
minimum conditions for letting him in.

The decision comes on the eve of the
visit to Washington by Douglas Hurd,
Foreign Secretary, and seems certain to
raise new questions about the so-called
"special relationship" since Mr Clinton
took power. It is almost inconceivable
that the Bush or Reagan Administrations
would have delivered such a public slap
in the face to America's closest ally.

Though the move caught Downing

Street officials by surprise, they said the
decision to provide a visa was "a matter
for the US". British officials in Washing-
ton were making representations to the
White House at the weekend. Putting a
brave face on events, Downing Street
said it hoped the New York conference
would impress on Mr Adams the need to
end violence permanently. There was no
indication that John Major considered
Mr Adams's words as amounting to an
acceptance of US conditions.

Mr Adams said last night that he had
received no official notification of the
American decision but had had "a very
interesting exchange of views" with
American consular officials. He said he
had not been asked to renounce violence.

John D. Taylor, Ulster Unionist MP
for Strangford, said the decision was
despicable and that the Clinton Adminis-
tration had "given in" to pressure from
the Irish lobby in Washington.

Mr Clinton has been under pressure to
let in Mr Adams from Senators Edward
Kennedy and Daniel Patrick Moynihan,
whose support he needs for his health
care reforms, and from 38 predominantly
Irish-American congressmen who ar-
gued that the US should foster "con-
structive dialogue" instead of violence.

The State and Justice Departments
and the FBI had agreed with Britain that
Mr Adams's application should be
rejected because of his terrorist links, as
eight before it had been.

Their views were apparently overruled
by the National Security Council and by
Nancy Soderberg, the NSC's third-in-
command. The White House said Mr
Clinton supported the "difficult" decision
which he believed would "help advance
the cause of peace in Northern Ireland".

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Diary, page 14



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Clinton opens door to Gerry Adams

By STEVE DOUGHTY
Diplomatic Correspondent

AMERICA opened its doors last night to Sinn Fein chief Gerry Adams.

The decision by President Clinton gives an entrance to mainstream politics for the IRA and its political mouthpiece.

It is also a body blow to John Major, the greatest in a year of increasing coldness between Washington and London.

Adams was granted a 48-hour visa, which will allow him to travel to New York and rally IRA supporters in a move that breaks 20 years of American backing for Britain in Northern Ireland.

He will go to New York tomorrow for a conference billed as representing all sides of opinion in Northern Ireland, but which now threatens to turn into a parade of triumph for the republican movement.

The visa, hedged round with restrictions, prevents Adams travelling more than 25 miles from New York City, bans him from raising funds and orders him to leave within 48 hours.

But it overthrows the American stance through the years of troubles in Northern Ireland against letting the IRA's leading apologist hold a platform in America in the guise of a democratic politician.

President Clinton said in a statement that he supports 'this difficult decision and believes it will help advance the cause of peace in Northern Ireland'.

The granting of a visa means Adams gets a prize before the IRA have responded to John Major's peace initiative and the London-Dublin joint declaration.

Terrorist attacks have continued in Ulster, but Adams will be allowed into America because he said last week that personally he was against violence.

Reports from Ulster suggest that chiefs of the

Continued from Page One

divided IRA are considering a three-month truce as a test of British intentions. A temporary ceasefire, which will not meet the declared demands of London and Dublin, could help the republicans cover up the split in their ranks between those wanting peace and those wanting violence.

There was dismay in Downing Street over the Clinton

IRA

decision. The [Americans] would be 'judged by their deeds', said a Number Ten spokesman.

Mr Adams told Irish TV viewers: 'What I want to do, and this is a judgment from me, is to bring an end to the Irish Republican Army, be part of taking the gun totally out of Irish politics now. The opportunity for peace will not be squandered by republicans, and we will not let the British Government squander it.'

Turn to Page 2, Col 1