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10 DOWNING STREET
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From the Private Secretary

1 February 1994

Dear Robin,

GERRY ADAMS

The Adams story continues to run very strongly here, and he is milking the propaganda opportunity for all it is worth. The American decision looks even more damaging today - if that is possible - than it did on Sunday.

The Prime Minister has been turning over in his mind the thought of sending a personal message to the President. However, he has now decided on an alternative course, unless the Foreign Secretary strongly disagrees. I have briefed him on the Foreign Secretary's robust conversation with Lake yesterday. The Prime Minister would like to follow this up by having Seitz call on me later this afternoon. I would speak to Seitz in terms of the attached notes (which I would probably leave with him).

I should be grateful if you could consult the Foreign Secretary, and let me have his and your views as quickly as possible.

*Yours etc,
Roderic*

RODERIC LYNE

Sir Robin Renwick KCMG

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SPEAKING NOTES FOR MEETING WITH US AMBASSADOR

The Prime Minister has asked me to see you. Had his diary permitted, he would have made these points in person. He would be grateful if they could be reported personally to the President.

As you know, we disagreed very strongly with the decision to admit Gerry Adams to the United States, at a time when the Provisionals are continuing their campaign of terrorism. Gerry Adams did not meet the two points which we understand were put to him by the United States Government on 28 January. He has not renounced violence. Indeed, he is already using his visit to the United States as a platform to propagandise his justification of IRA terrorism. There has been no commitment by Sinn Fein and the Provisionals to peace on the basis of the Joint Declaration. There has been no substantive shift by them in that direction. The National Security Adviser will know from material we have provided to him that the Provisionals are conveying a false impression of their position in order to evade pressure on them to accept the Joint Declaration.

I have reported to the Prime Minister the explanation of the US decision given to me by Tony Lake on Sunday evening, and the Prime Minister has seen an account of Lake's conversation with the Foreign Secretary yesterday. These explanations have done nothing to set the Prime Minister's mind at rest. Unless Mr. Adams's visit is followed by a rapid and permanent end to the IRA's violence, there is no question that it will have done huge damage to the Joint Declaration. We warned of this ahead of the visit, in the strongest possible terms, and we are dismayed that our warnings were not taken into account. We note that early in his visit, Mr. Adams has already discounted the possibility of an end to violence. He is seeking to set fresh and manifestly unacceptable

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conditions for this. The whole purpose of the Joint Declaration was to make clear - in the eyes of the British and Irish governments, since supported by leading figures on both sides of the community - that there could be no further excuses or justification for continuing IRA terrorism.

The Prime Minister hopes that the Administration will condemn attempts by Adams in New York to justify violence. We hope that the Administration will reiterate the strong stance traditionally taken by the US against terrorism, and will stress that Sinn Fein and the Provisionals should end violence immediately and, as the Joint Declaration provides, enter the democratic process and commit themselves exclusively to it.

The Prime Minister also hopes that it will be made clear that the admission of Adams was a wholly exceptional event; and that, if he and other members of the Provisional movement do not now renounce and abandon terrorism, they should not expect the United States Government to waive its prohibition on their entry.

We are concerned that there may be a serious misunderstanding of the problem which we face in Northern Ireland, and of the Joint Declaration initiative. The essence of the Joint Declaration is that all possible pressure must be maintained on Sinn Fein and the Provisional movement to abandon violence. Their attempts to evade the Joint Declaration should not be encouraged. We would be happy at all levels to explain the situation in as much detail as you would like, and the Prime Minister looks forward to discussing it with the President in Washington on 28 February.

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