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*Tuanmair
To Mr M.*

21 FEBRUARY 1995

TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON
FOR G CORR FROM M COLLINS

22/2/95

*Dist, 7 Jun 95
PSS.
Secretary of the
Mr MURPHY
Mr Teahan
Mr Don M.
Secretary
Emb. London
Counsellors A.I.*

RE: UNIONISTS VISIT TO WASHINGTON

1. Further to the Ambassador's fax yesterday, the Unionist party delegation had a series of meetings here today including, in particular, with National Security Adviser Tony Lake. They also met with a number of Hill staffers and other meetings are envisaged over the next few days. The previous intention of the Unionists to return home on Wednesday evening has been modified. They are now expected to remain here until Thursday.
2. A copy of the statement issued following the UUP meeting with National Security Advisor Lake is attached. At this meeting, at which they handed over a copy of their own document, the UUP suggested a distinct lack of trust between the Unionist parties and Prime Minister Major arising from the preparation of the Joint Framework Document. At the same time, the Unionists did not present their case in apocalyptic terms and US officials did not take it from the discussions that the Unionists would refuse to look at the Framework Document. The Unionists suggested that crowds might take to the street in Northern Ireland in protest against the Framework Document to which National Security Adviser Lake responded that he knew

that the Unionists would be working hard to prevent this! Lake made it abundantly clear that, regardless of Unionist reservations about the document, the US Administration would be entirely supportive of it. The US was on the side of early political movement, according to Lake, and the Joint Framework Document was seen very much in this context. Lake emphasised that the US would continue to encourage efforts to reach a political settlement which could win the support of all democratic parties in Northern Ireland.

3. In other meetings with Hill staffers, the Unionists had a lot of negative things to say about the British Government. The Irish Government was not the subject of any particular strong comment or criticism. The Unionists did not get into the detail of their criticisms of the Framework Document stating that they would wish to reserve their position on it until they had a chance to study it. There was a general lament that the document was too long and a suggestion that it might have benefitted from greater ambiguity.
4. On other issues, the UUP insisted that the focus of the White House Investment Conference should be Northern Ireland and the border counties. They expressed concern about the MacBride Principles in the context of this Conference. They said they were worried that Congressman Gilman's hearings might not be balanced and that the proposal to hold these hearings in close proximity to St Patrick's Day would inevitably result in them being "pro-nationalist".
5. Regarding the Adams fundraising issue, the UUP suggested that the United States maintain its current policy. Some weapons had to be handed in, although they recognised that Sinn Féin could not do this on their own. In any event, they insisted that they themselves would not be able to engage in all-party

talks until there was a resolution of the decommissioning issue.

6. Over the coming days, the Unionists will also meet with Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Peter Tarnoff at the State Department. Meetings with Senator Kennedy and the Chairman of the Friends of Ireland, James Walsh, are also envisaged.

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 21, 1995

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR'S MEETING WITH UUP OFFICIALS

National Security Advisor Anthony Lake met February 21 with a delegation of officials from the Ulster Unionist Party of Northern Ireland, including Reverend Martin Smyth, MP, UUP Chairman and Member of the European Parliament Jim Nicholson, and Party Secretary Jeffrey Donaldson. Mr. Lake affirmed the Administration's desire to support the peace process in Northern Ireland. He highlighted U.S. efforts to encourage increased U.S. trade and investment in Northern Ireland, including the White House Conference on Trade and Investment scheduled for May 24-26 in Washington.

Mr. Lake and the UUP officials discussed the prospects for peace and political progress in Northern Ireland. The UUP leaders described their efforts and their concerns. Mr. Lake emphasized that the U.S. will continue to encourage efforts to reach a political settlement which could win the support of all democratic parties in Northern Ireland. Mr. Lake and the UUP officials agreed to continue their dialogue as events unfold in Northern Ireland.