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Reference Code: 2021/97/37

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to be better
to hope
would see the
Confidential
Article mentioned
please

Yes. Noted.
A meeting between
Adams & Trimble is what
we need. See Liam Clarke
in yesterday's "Sunday
Times" job
Dairneach
to see please
especially A & B.
27

Meeting between David Trimble and US Ambassador to London
19 September 1995

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Philip McDonagh, Counsellor at the Embassy in London, passed on a briefing which he had received from a US Embassy source on Trimble's meeting with Ambassador Crowe.

Trimble came to the Embassy alone and stayed for half an hour. He appeared confident and relaxed. The Ambassador went out of his way to try and build up Trimble's confidence with the US Administration.

The arrangements for Trimble's visit to Washington were discussed. No date has been fixed, but it is likely to be late October or early November. The Administration have agreed that Trimble will meet Vice-President Gore and that the President will probably drop by for a photo call.

A

According to Trimble, his meeting with Prime Minister Major had not broken new ground. Trimble had no fresh ideas on how to move the process forward and neither, he said, had the Prime Minister.

B

Trimble asserted that Sinn Féin had yet to demonstrate that it had accepted the conditions of paragraph 10 of the Downing Street Declaration concerning a commitment to exclusively peaceful methods. He said that decommissioning of weapons was not the **only issue**; **there was also the question of punishment beatings, as well as continued training and recruitment.** He argued **that** there was still a confidence-gap and that "some quite **substantial changes**" were required to bridge it.

Trimble expressed a willingness to work with the British and US Governments.

In response to the Ambassador's expression of concern about the President's visit to Northern Ireland arising from recent statements by Ian Paisley, Trimble said that he personally

welcomed the President's visit, but he asked that the Ambassador seek to ensure the President's future impartiality.

The view in the Embassy was that Trimble may be susceptible to reason because of his sophistication, but that he "will set the evidenciary bar high" on decommissioning.

David Cooney

Anglo-Irish Division
Department of Foreign Affairs
20 September 1995

cc. PST, PSS, Second Secretary,
Counsellors A-I, Section
Ambassadors, London and Washington
Joint Secretary, Belfast
Messrs. Teahon, Murray and Donlon (Dept. Taoiseach)
Mr. Dalton (Dept. Justice)