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FROM: JONATHAN STEPHENS
PS/SECRETARY OF STATE
27 JANUARY 1994

DESK IMMEDIATE

cc: PS/Secretary of State (L&B) - B
PS/Michael Ancram (L,B&DENI) - B/M
PS/Sir John Wheeler (L,B&DFP) - B/M
PS/PUS (L&B) - B
PS/Mr Fell - B
Mr Legge - B
Mr Thomas - B
Mr Bell - B
Mr Deverell - B
Mr Watkins - B
Mr Williams - B
Mr Wood (L&B) - B
Mr Brooker - B
Mr Maccabe - B
Mr Quinn - B
Mr Caine - B

MR DANIELL - B

ADAMS' VISA

The Foreign Secretary's office told me this afternoon of the latest developments.

2. Lake had rang earlier to say that the President had agreed to offer a visa subject to relatively weak conditions, similar to those set out in Rod Lyne's letter to me of 20 January. Since then, however, there had been a fierce rearguard action by the State Department.

3. As a result, and following further discussions between No 10 and the White House, the Americans will now be writing to Adams to offer him a visa if:

"You personally renounce violence and will work to that end;

"Sinn Fein and the IRA are committed to ending the conflict in Northern Ireland on the basis of the Joint Declaration."

4. This will be accompanied by a strong reiteration of US support for the Joint Declaration. Any visa would be on a one-off basis for 24 hours only.

5. This decision is likely to become public tonight: No 10 are circulating lines to take, giving a low key reaction and making it clear that this is a matter for the US authorities.

6. As we discussed, this - particularly the second condition - is a rather better outcome than we might at one time have expected. It will be difficult for Adams to meet both these conditions and, whether he does so or not, it will put the focus back on to whether the IRA will end violence.

SIGNED

JONATHAN STEPHENS
PS/Secretary of State
OAB Ext 6462
27 January 1994

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Watch this
Mr 28/1
free

MR DANIELL - B

ADAMS' VISA

Further to my note of earlier today, we have now learned how the State Department propose to process the decision to offer Adams a visa subject to certain conditions.

2. The State Department will tonight issue instructions to their Dublin Embassy. These will instruct the Consul General (unclear whether this is in Dublin or in Belfast) to call Adams in. He will be shown the conditions and told that, if he makes such a statement, this will help the US authorities reach their final decision on the application.

3. The State Department expects to be able to reach and announce its final decision by 5 pm, our time, tomorrow (Friday). At the same time, they will announce the conditions, whether or not Adams has met them. This will be accompanied by a strong reiteration of their commitment to the Joint Declaration.

4. We can, of course, expect the conditions to become known before the formal State Department decision. I shall circulate press lines as they become available.

SIGNED

JONATHAN STEPHENS
PS/Secretary of State
27 January 1994

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~~Mr. Sawers~~

Mr. W. Harris

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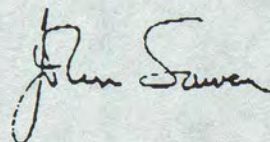
Mr Archer, RIDNorthern Ireland : Visa for Gerry Adams

The Secretary of State made clear to the American Ambassador when he called this afternoon that the question of a possible visa for Gerry Adams to visit the United States was a matter of great concern to him. The Secretary of State said he knew that attempts were being made to find a formula which could be offered to Adams. The fact was Adams had to renounce violence. Granting him favours before then would be completely wrong in Northern Ireland terms and also dangerous in terms of the US/UK relationship.

Seitz said the question of a visa for Adams was before the President. There was a great deal of pressure on him. It was likely to be an issue when the Secretary of State visited Washington next week. The question could not be drawn out indefinitely as the basis for the application was for Adams to attend a Conference in New York. The Conference was quite high profile. There was a plan to involve the Unionists thought they would not, of course, attend if Adams turned up.

Comment

The Secretary of State would welcome more information about the New York Conference, and the Unionists who are planning to take part. He will need a well-tuned brief for his visit to America, including advice on who in particular he should target.



25 January 1994

(R J Sawers)

cc : PS

PS/PUS

Sir T Daunt

Hd/NAD

~~PS/Northern Ireland Office~~

Sir R Renwick KCMG, WASHINGTON - by fax

SECRET