

FROM: PUS
7 OCTOBER 1993

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

cc: PS/Sofs (L&B)
PS/Mr Fell
Mr Thomas
Mr Bell
Mr Cooke

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DISCUSSION WITH HMA WASHINGTON

I saw Sir Robin Renick this morning. Our discussion touched on the following points:

- a) Hume/Adams - Sir Robin has seen Hume during his visit to the United States in the past few days and Hume had given him a general outline of where his talks with Adams had got to. It was clear that the dual referendum/constitutional guarantee problem had not been overcome by Hume at this point. Sir Robin said it had been very helpful that the Secretary of State and HMG generally had not condemned Hume for his talks with Adams; it would be equally important if Hume was seen to have failed that he should not be condemned for that. I said I was clear that there will be no finger pointing by the British Government (otherwise than in the direction of the provisionals) and it was of the first importance that constitutional nationalism continued to have strong leadership.
- b) Political Development - Sir Robin said that the Hume/Adams dialogue had rather overshadowed the revived activity on the political development front in the Ancram round, but there was a sense by contrast with the late summer that there was activity and that the British Government was leading it.
- c) Peace envoy - because of the foregoing the peace envoy proposal, though being stirred by the Irish Ambassador in Washington (Dermot Gallagher), remained quiescent. Sir Robin had emphasised both to the Administration and to the US Ambassador in London here how awkward it would be for a President whose envoy such a figure would be to be associated with its inevitable failure whether by reason of Unionist boycott or worse if the envoy met Sinn Fein and was then cold shouldered not only by unionists but by others. I said the Irish government would clearly continue to see the envoy as a means of exerting pressure on us but I doubted whether they would actively advocate it to the US Government in the teeth of our opposition unless

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circumstances both on the political development and political movement fronts had changed very adversely.

- d) Visits - Sir Robin pressed an invitation on me to visit this side of Christmas, with the timing left to circumstances as they unfold. He did not see a need for the Secretary of State to visit again until the new year or spring but did not rule out a visit by Michael Ancram though not he thought until the political development scene had cleared (otherwise Michael Ancram might come under difficult pressures in Washington both from the administration and from Irish American politicians).
- e) Jean Kennedy Smith - Sir Robin had discussed this with Ray Seitz earlier today. Seitz had confirmed that he and his successor will continue to work to minimise difficulties in the shape of unsuitable or too frequent visits by Jean Kennedy Smith to Northern Ireland, but he hoped that we would not confront her too frequently or in public on the issue. I said that was the last thing we should want; the US Embassy in London and the US Administration was to take as much of the strain as possible though of course we had to be free to point out drawbacks if she were to continue to do things like attending the Ballymurphy trial. I had had two conversations with her myself at the BIA conference in Cambridge in September and like others had formed the impression that while there was a great deal to learn there was also to some degree a willingness to do so.

2. Sir Robin said as before how grateful he and his Embassy were for all the help and cooperation they received from SIL and the NIO generally; I said that it works both ways, very genuinely.

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