## CONFIDENTIAL AND PERSONAL



19 June 1996

British Embassy Washington

John Holmes Esq NO 10

> \$100 Managery ave. N W Washington D.C. 20008 3600

Telephone: (202) Parsimile: (2012)

POSSIBLE DESIGNATION OF PIRA AS A TERRORIST ORGANISATION IN THE US

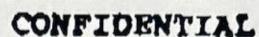
I don't know how rapidly the bureaucratic wheels will turn, but I thought you ought to see the enclosed exchange I've had with RID in the FCO without further ado.

HOS LEFT SETECTLY LEVEL FOR ACCURAGE EXCESSES ASSESSED.

tour luin

Peter Westmacott

**D**03



18 June 1996

Donald A Lamont Esq RID, FCO



British Embassy Washington

3100 Massachurila Ave N.W. Wastington D.C. 80008-5800

Telephone: (202) 898 4264 Facimile: (202) 898 4455

Jear Imaid.

current behaviour is doing to !

## US ANTI-TERRORISM LEGISLATION

- 1. Thank you for sending me a copy of your minute of 17 June to Jonathan Stephens suggesting that we now lobby the US Secretary of State to secure the designation of PIRA as a terrorist organisation.
- Clearly, before going down this path, we need a reasonable idea of what we might achieve. Taking the provisions listed in our telno 862 in order;
- (a) Fund-raising. I doubt whather designating PIRA as a terrorist organisation would make it any easier to obtain a ban on fund-raising by Friends of Sinn Pein in the US, unless we could produce hard evidence of FOSF funds reaching PIRA or facilitating certain specific criminal offences. The Americans would never designate Sinn Pein itself as a terrorist organisation; but they already have, in effect, reimposed the fund-raising ban on Garry Adams, which will continue significantly to inhibit FOSF fund-raising in the US (already sharply down on the 1994/5 totals).
- (b) Removal of alien terrorists. More IRA members might be deported in future - though this is an area in which we have not been directly involved hitherto. Extradition cases would be unaffected. Our present treaty with the US is a good one. But the lawyers of people like Jimmy Smyth will continue to make all the use they can of the appeal procedures at their disposal.
- (c) Exclusion of alien terrorists. Under this provision, it ought to be easier to keep IKA members out of the US, since they would be excludable on grounds of membership alone. But the worst offenders are already barred from acquiring a visa. and need to apply for a waiver from the Attorney General each time they wish to do so. The new provisions wouldn't alter the ability of the Administration to continue to issue waivers in the future, or to exclude those they wish to keep out (like Ruairi O'Bradaigh of RSF); but they might make it more difficult, politically, to grant exceptions.
- 3. The practical benefits would not, therefore, be great. for the US Government formally to designate PIRA as a terrorist organisation could have roal symbolic value. The benefits in

CONFIDENTIAL

D01

## CONFIDENTIAL



the UK are obvious enough. But this would also be a way for the Administration to mark its extreme displeasure with the IRA. Importantly (here at least), those who believe that Adams is still in the business of trying to move the organisation away from violence might be persuaded that such an initiative would help his case, by showing how much damage the IRA's current behaviour is doing to the Republican cause in America.

- 4. Although it is the Secretary of State who formally decides which organisations are designated as terrorist groups, I do not think that you should instruct us to lobby State for such a designation; or that the Foreign Secretary should write to Warren Christopher. We have a much better chance of achieving our objective if the Administration adopts the idea as its own. Since the State Department are not serious players on Northern Ireland, that means gatting Lake, and the President, on board. The best approach would be for the Prime Minister to mention the idea, very privately, to the President in Lyon. The President is bound to ask what more he can do to help, following the Manchester bomb; here is a perfectly reasonable response to that question. (The FBI are already working with the Security Service (protect) on a list of terrorist organisations which they believe should now be so designated under the new legislation. It includes PIRA and INLA, as well as UDA, UFF, UVF and PHC.)
- 5. There is no guarantee that the President will decide that this is the right thing to do. He will, of course, need to balance the advantages of being seen to be tough on terrorism against the risk of antagonising Irish Americans, whose votes he needs in November. But, in the aftermath of Manchester and Adare, and with the UK and Irish Governments at one in their disgust, there is a fair prospect that he will reach the conclusion we would want: as our reporting has brought out, it is those who are most sympathetic to the cause of a united Ireland, and who have backed Adams in the past, who feel most betrayed by the decision of the IRA to break the cease-fire, and to continue to commit terrorist outrages. But Clinton will not wish to be seen to be responding to a British request.
  - 6. If you agree with this advice, the approach to the President will need to remain strictly confidential. I suggest that the papers are handled with particular care.



**P05** 

the Phillips An. Glynn - Jones

Dunald A Lamont From"

Republic of Iroland Dept

in - Muddanald.

Date: 17 June 1996

CCI Howing virona rue telegroom (copy a trached), 1 Mink we should mise this with the Americans but Anivabely, pm -> Prosidentic Wetkins so that it becomes their Mr Magcabe In. r. wite, nov a formal

PS/PUS PS/Bir David Fell Mr Thomas Mr Luyye Mc Btoolo

Mr Bell.

Mr Currie

Mr Budd, Cabingt Office /# Mr Westmacott, Washington

( Please see mr stephens Attained draft

FEO - Stare regners.

dissent ? 1

- Comments a.s. A. p. presse UK ANTI-TERRORISM LEGISLATION: DESIGNATION OF PIRA AS A TERKORIST GROUP

1. Washington Telno 862 of 25 April reported President Clinton's signature of new US Anti-Terroriem Legislation. The text of the telegrom is attached as an annex.

- 2. The recent attacks by the IRA in Adars and Manchester provide compelling background to an affort to secure the designation of PIRA as a terrorist group by the UB Secretary of State. Unless you see difficulty, I propose to submit to the Foreign Secretary recommending that our Embassy in Washington should now be instructed to lobby for such designation. understand that such action would be supported by the Security Service, but am seeking contirmation separately.
- ?. I should be grateful for advice from Peter Westmacott on tactics, and in particular whether at this stage it would be useful for the Foreign Secretary to Write to Warren Christopher. There is also the option of Including a request for designation in briefing for the Prime Minister's meeting with President Clinton in Lyons on 27 June.

Donald A Lamont

DL/RHH/4908