

cc JEH

NBPM

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From: Peter Westmacott

Date: 12 June 1996

cc: Minister
Mr Thomas
Mr McDonald
Mr Bean

✓ PS Adams 12/6

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S TRAVEL PLANS

12/6

1. I asked Mary Ann Peters (NSC) this afternoon how seriously I should take a rumour we had picked up from a journalist that the President was thinking of stopping off in Belfast on his way to (or from) Lyon.

2. Ms Peters said this was the first she'd heard of the idea. She thought we could safely ignore it. It had not been raised at any of the G7 planning meetings. Her own view was that, given the way things had gone in Belfast over the last couple of days, a visit by the President would not be a good thing. If sweetness and harmony broke out, and all the parties found themselves taking part under the chairmanship of Mitchell, etc, a brief visit by the President might not seem such a bad idea; but she thought it unlikely that anyone in the White House would pursue it at this late stage.

✓ 3. Ms Peters confirmed (as we knew) that there had been some thought a month or two back of the President stopping off in the Republic to play golf with Dick Spring, who was endlessly repeating his invitation to Clinton to do so. That idea had died when the White House realised that the Irish would be putting Clinton under irresistible pressure to attend the next EU/US Summit in Dublin in December at the end of their Presidency. Two visits to Ireland in the space of 6 months would be too much, even in an election year.

4. Ms Peters said that Clinton was not planning to visit any other countries on his Lyon trip. Bosnia and other options had been ruled out. But he would be spending the weekend after the G7 meeting privately in Paris.

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