

8/17/96 18:30

Taoiseach

The next few days  
 will tell the final  
 story on all this

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interaction  
 with Sinn  
 Fein  
 in the



EMBASSY OF IRELAND

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SECURE FAX NO: 133

18.6.96

17 JUNE 1996

TO HQ  
 FOR SECRETARY O HUIGINN

FROM WASHINGTON  
 FROM P HENNESSY

COPY TO: *4C*  
 PST *18*  
 PSS *6*  
 MR. P. TEAHON  
 MR. S. DONLON  
 MR. T. DALTON

CONVERSATION WITH PETER KING

1. Peter King called me following his conversation earlier today with Gerry Adams.
2. Adams remained "relatively optimistic" that a ceasefire could be secured. While he recognized that the bombing in Manchester created very serious difficulties, and was unsettling to the peace process, he appeared confident that the drive to restore the ceasefire could be maintained. He had said that he was unable to discount the possibility of another incident, but equally had no reason to expect a repetition: however, he acknowledged to King that any such incident could cause serious difficulties with both Dublin and Washington. As in their previous conversation, he added that it was up to him (i.e. to Adams) to persuade the IRA to restore the ceasefire. He had already been working hard on this over the past week, and gave King to understand that he had not as yet encountered serious opposition within the Army Council.
3. King denounced the Manchester attack as not merely immoral, but tactically stupid. It could serve no conceivable purpose for the Republican movement. He said that he had heard from other sources (i.e. not from Adams) that the attack had not been sanctioned by the IRA leadership. He hoped that this was incorrect, because a break-down in control by the centre would only serve to deter the White House from maintaining its current high level of involvement.

END