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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

30 September 1997

Dear Anthony,

VISIT TO US BY ULSTER UNIONISTS

David Trimble telephoned me this afternoon in John Holmes' absence about his visit to the US next week. He said that he and his colleagues would be in Washington on 6/7 October. He was going at the urging of the US Government and Admiral Crowe in particular. He was only doing so on the basis that there would be a meeting with Clinton. Nevertheless, in his latest contacts with the NSC, he had been told to play down the possibility of a Presidential meeting. He was reluctant to go to Washington and then be snubbed. He asked that we tell the Americans if there was no meeting with Clinton, he would not be going. I simply took note.

Comment

While it is of course a matter for the Americans, we would support Trimble's request for a meeting with Clinton, without insisting on it. Please could you consider what action you might take with the NSC. You might point out that Adams saw Berger, in our view Trimble should be received at a high level.

I am copying this letter to Dominick Chilcott (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Ken Lindsay (Northern Ireland Office) and Jan Polley (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever,

Philip

PHILIP BARTON

Anthony Cary Esq
Washington Embassy

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