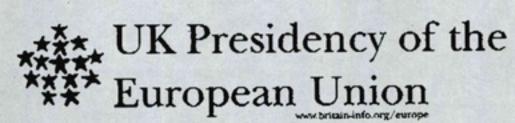
PAGE





British Embassy Washington

From the Ambassador Sir Christopher Meyer KCMG

26 January 1998

JAN-26-98 09:45 FROM: BRITISH EMBASSY

John Holmes Esq LONDON

No 10 Downing Street

(by fax)

Dear John

3100 Massachusetts Ave. N.W. Washington D.C. 20008-3600

Telephone: (202) 588-6512 Facsimile: (202) 588-7870

## NORTHERN IRELAND: CONVERSATION WITH THE NSC

On 25 January, I asked Jim Steinberg, Deputy National Security Adviser, what supporting action he was taking to hold the parties to the Heads of Agreement paper.

Steinberg said that he had spoken to Adams and Trimble and was trying to get hold of McMichael. He had told Adams that he must be categorical in his condemnation of violence. He should not get drawn into a numbers game because more Catholics than Protestants had been murdered. Adams' statements so far had been not bad; but the IRA's was unacceptable.

On the Heads of Agreement, Steinberg had told Adams not to trash the paper, not least because this was tantamount to trashing the Irish Government.

With Trimble, Steinberg had stressed the importance of avoiding triumphalism about his contribution to the Heads of Agreement paper.

Steinberg remarked that Adams and Trimble reminded him of Netanyahu. They justified taking unhelpful public positions by reference to the need to keep their troops in line.

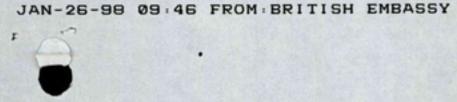
Jans ever, Unistyphen

Christopher Meyer

ID:2025887860

PAGE

3/3



cc: John Grant Esq, Private Secretary, FCO
Jan Polley, Cabinet Office
Veronica Sutherland, Dublin
Ken Lindsay Esq, NIO