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# UK Presidency of the European Union

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British Embassy  
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From the Ambassador  
Sir Christopher Meyer KCMG

26 January 1998

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*Dear John,*

## 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.

*Yours ever,*

*Christopher*

Christopher Meyer



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cc: John Grant Esq, Private Secretary, FCO  
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