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Date: 27 January, 1997

To: Press Section

From: Washington

For: Ms Manahan Leslie

From: Adrian O'Neill

C/C: Mr McIntyre (A-I Division); Mr Brangan (NY)

Is Nolan
not named

Re: Interview with Secretary Albright

on to the Taoiseach - in person sequential
m.u. 30-1-97

Secretary of State Albright appeared yesterday morning on the influential NBC news programme "Meet the Press", which is anchored by Tim Russert. The last substantive question which Russert asked the Secretary related to Northern Ireland - specifically, whether Gerry Adams ("the head of the IRA") would be granted a further visa to visit the US.

As you will see from the attached transcript, Secretary Albright said this issue was "hypothetical"; Mr Adams had not "asked" and she was not going to "speculate about that". The Secretary went on to say that it was very important that there be a cease-fire and that "the talks go forward". She emphasised there was "no possibility of solving the situation by military means". Finally, she stated that Senator Mitchell has been "very involved" in the talks and "we have confidence in his going forward with that".

END

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RUSSERT: Would you like to see it changed?

ALBRIGHT: No. I have really -- You know, Tim, people have asked me if I ever thought this was possible. Did I ever think that I, Madeleine Corbell (ph) at that stage, 11 years old, coming to the United States, could ever be secretary of state? I would have said absolutely not.

So I have achieved my highest ambitions except for one: and that is to do the very best job that it's possible to do in this position.

RUSSERT: Two matters of internal strife in Ireland. As you know, the cease fire between the IRA and the British has broken down. St. Patrick's Day is coming.

If Gerry Adams, the head of the IRA wanted a visa to come to the United States, would we give him one in light of the current circumstances?

ALBRIGHT: I think here, Tim, it's a hypothetical situation. He hasn't asked and -- So I'm not going to speculate about that.

But let me just say that it's very important, obviously, that there be a ceasefire; that the talks go forward. There is no possibility of solving this situation by military means.

And we want very much -- As you know, Senator Mitchell has been very involved in these talks. We have confidence in his going forward with that. And that's what has to happen.

RUSSERT: Another raging feud, internal strife -- Who's side you on? The cheeseheads or the chowderheads?

ALBRIGHT: This is too hard for a secretary of state to decide. Okay?

(LAUGHTER)

RUSSERT: A domestic politician at heart; I can tell you.

(LAUGHTER)

RUSSERT: Thank you very much, Madam Secretary, for joining us this morning.

ALBRIGHT: Thank you. Thank you.

RUSSERT: Coming next: the new head of the Democratic National Committee. And then: Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein of Watergate fame.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

RUSSERT: Chairman of the national Democratic Party, Governor Roy Romer, welcome.

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