

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Gerry Adams, Sinn Fein Leader

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Gerry Adams

Notetakers: David Higgins, Sean Rice,
George Chastain, Joel Schrader and
Lawrence Butler

DATE, TIME May 23, 1998, 1:28 - 1:32 p.m. EDT
AND PLACE: Camp David, Maryland

Mr. Adams: Hello?

The President: Gerry, congratulations.

Mr. Adams: Thank you very much; you are very kind.

The President: You guys did a great job.

Mr. Adams: I have told everyone all day that this is the beginning and we're moving to the future. Thank you for keeping faith in all this. I reflect sometimes on the first time I went there, and I think you were right then -- well done.

The President: What do you think the final Protestant vote was?

Mr. Adams: It's impossible to know. It's clear that the majority voted in favor of this, and I think it was a very sophisticated vote. Obviously people from all quarters, including Republicans had problems. I do believe this is a leap of faith into the future. I was appealing to the "No" voters that they were voting through fear and not to think about it. There will be resistance from this quarter, but we continue to stay focused and work through it.

The President: That's what I think. We have to work at it now, and look at some ways to keep everybody's faith and good spirits

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up now. We need to get the process on the right track. You are in a stronger position now; with this vote; you have been validated.

Mr. Adams: 70 percent voted in favor in the north. In the south, there wasn't such a high turnout, but 92 percent in favor... to me, it's that they were voting in favor of a whole raft of future issues. I am going to talk to Blair later. I'm going to be at the White House next week, Thursday or Wednesday; I'd like to see you there. I'm going to the States for some speaking engagements.

The President: If I'm in town, I'd be glad to see you.

Mr. Adams: My sense of all this is that the people are ahead of the politicians.

The President: They often are; not just there, but everywhere. You have a good time and enjoy your celebration.

Mr. Adams: Please say hello to my wife.

The President: Sure.

[Mr. Adams passes phone to Mrs. Adams.]

Mrs. Adams: Hello?

The President: Hello. How are you? You must be feeling so good today.

Mrs. Adams: Yes. Isn't it grand. It's great to talk to you.

The President: Thank you. I'm really looking forward to keeping on with this. You must be very proud.

Mrs. Adams: Well, I'm very proud of my husband.

The President: It's nice speaking to you.

Mrs. Adams: Well, it was nice speaking to you. Thank you; bye bye.

[Mr. Adams back on line.]

Mr. Adams: Thanks for that.

The President: Okay, man.

Mr. Adams: Tomorrow, by the way, my county team, the one my son plays on, plays Donegal in Gaelic football. That will be the real test; Antrim hasn't beaten them in 15 years. That would be the ultimate miracle.

The President: Well done, and thanks again.

Mr. Adams: Good bye.

-- End of Conversation --