

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Sinn Fein Leader, Gerry Adams
(U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Gerry Adams

Notetakers: Peter Huggins, Anthony
Campanella and Lawrence Butler

DATE, TIME April 10, 1998, 5:00 - 5:07 a.m. EDT
AND PLACE: The Residence

Mr. Adams: Sorry, President, for waking you up. I've had two meetings with Bertie Ahern and Tony Blair. We had a pretty good talk. There are a number of issues with the agreement that should have been resolved, issues like equality, getting parity on a statutory basis, improvement on the issue of Irish language -- though we did get some improvements there. I'm not going to give you a whole laundry list, but there is particular difficulty with locally recruited regiment. Do you remember the murders of those two men in the pub, one Catholic and one Protestant? (U)

The President: Yes. (U)

Mr. Adams: Well, those charged with the murders are members of this force. The British were forced to disband the previous regiment and they had to disband the regiment before that. It hasn't been dealt with here and it's a huge source of concern. Other issues are the criminal justice system, human rights issues. Some good work has been done, but quite a few matters haven't been dealt with and others haven't been completely dealt with. I talked to Tony and he will meet me. He sent me a letter, which I haven't read yet, to which I will reply to try and resolve these issues. I believe the guy. (U)

Some of these issues he doesn't have a firm grasp of and he cannot answer them here. This is going to be rocky. We haven't

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gotten as much as we should have. I'm going to have to look at it closely. I'm going to run some words past Mr. Blair and see if there's any chance of a way forward. I think Blair is happy with them. I'm also going to run amendments on some matters past Senator Mitchell. It would have been a better agreement if we had resolved them. (C)

We didn't get movement on the prisoners to one year, except in a conditional sort of way; if we were positive, then he would move it from two to one years. He said he would say it publicly. I asked him not to say it publicly because it would be difficult for me. It would seem like I was doing this under pressure and some people would not like it. There are some things I don't like -- changes in the Irish Constitution, unionists getting their Assembly -- something we've been against all along. That's what we're doing. (C)

We're living very dangerously and we need your continued help. These are issues that I know you care a lot about -- human rights, equality, demilitarizing the situation, and bringing the opportunity to people for a better society. It's going to be very bumpy. It helps to have your support, that I can call on you to talk to Mr. Blair on issues, whatever the issue is. I need that continued nudge. You're the President of the United States and I'm just a local politician. Tony Blair is the Prime Minister of Britain. (C)

The President: I'll be happy to do that. I know you've done the best you can. His word is good on the prisoner issues. The gains to be had are significant. I will work with others and do what I can to help. (C)

Mr. Adams: Okay, Mr. President. Thank you and sorry for waking you. I actually forgot about the time. (U)

The President: Any time. (U)

Mr. Adams: God bless. (U)

The President: Take it easy. (U)

Mr. Adams: Bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --