

POINTS TO BE MADE FOR GREETING WITH  
JOHN HUME

- Congratulations again on the Nobel Prize; wish I were going with you to see you get it Wednesday. Please say hello to Pat.
- I told Trimble earlier today that the hold up in framing the political structures has let Gerry Adams off the hook on decommissioning -- movement on the executive and north-south bodies would leave decommissioning isolated as only part of the Accord with no progress.
- Know that Seamus Mallon was upset with UUP's reversal on Thursday; can you help him with Trimble to move this forward?
- What is your assessment of IRA intentions - are they capable of making a bold move in the next few months?
- I want to stay in touch with you as the process continues.

CONFIDENTIAL

Reason: 1.5(d)

Declassify On: 12/5/08

**DECLASSIFIED**  
**PER E.O. 13526**

2015-0157-M (1.13)

KBH 3/3/2023

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SUMMARY POINTS FOR GREETING WITH  
JOHN HUME

- Congratulations again on the Nobel Prize; wish I were going with you to see you get it Wednesday. Say hello to Pat.
- Told Trimble today that holding up political structures has let Gerry Adams off the hook on decommissioning -- movement on the executive and north-south bodies would leave decommissioning as only part of the Accord with no progress.
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1.5(D)  
DECL: 12/5/08

**DECLASSIFIED**  
**PER E.O. 13526**  
2015 - 0157-m (1.14)  
KBH 3/3/2023

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December 3, 1998

**DECLASSIFIED  
PER E.O. 13526**

2015-0157-M (1.22)

KBH 3/3/2023



INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES B. STEINBERG

THROUGH: DONALD K. BANDLER

FROM: LAWRENCE E. BUTLER

SUBJECT: Ireland Update for Mowlam Meeting, Friday,  
December 4, 1998

You are meeting with NIO officials Bill Jeffries and Jonathan Stevens prior to your meeting with Mowlam. Beware that Mowlam may have to bail to be in Belfast for the endgame on the political structures Friday; Joe Pilling would stand in for her in that case.

Tony Blair succeeded in smoking David Trimble out last night on North-South Council implementation bodies (Embassy London cable attached), but there are details Mowlam et al. are trying to sort out on Thursday with the party leaders, aiming for a "roundtable" announcement on Friday. Adams, Hume and Mallon met this morning, and Adams was meeting with Trimble mid-afternoon. Blair and Ahern would likely attend if all get sorted out; the body language is very encouraging.

Blair appears to have his package deal that defines the composition of the ten Northern Ireland Executive positions along with up to eight North-South Council bodies. He wanted to secure this before the party leaders leave this weekend for the December 7 Kennedy Library event and December 8 NDI dinner. The fear is that there won't be another chance until after Christmas; momentum is important -- a similar malaise last year led to a series of killings that rocked the peace process.

If he pulls this off tomorrow, the parties come to Washington next week in a situation where the only area of the GFA on which precious little progress will have been made is decommissioning. Ahern has made it clear in public that Dublin shares London's view that decommissioning an integral element of GFA implementation and cannot wait for June 2000. You will be

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Reason: 1.5(b,d)

Declassify On: 12/3/08

pressed by Mowlam and others for the President to make a low key statement on this at the dinner and press more firmly in private with Adams.

**North-South bodies.** Blair and Ahern visited Belfast repeatedly last month seeking Trimble's agreement on the definition of the North-South bodies. Last week there was convergence on eight separate bodies: tourism, transportation, waterways, Irish language, aquaculture, EU programs, food safety, and business development. The latter has been a redline for unionists and nationalists, with John Taylor adamantly opposed to anything that resembles an integrated approach to inward investment and trade development. Mallon has insisted that the body have precisely this role. The deal being struck removes inward investment, but covers domestic efforts. If the deal is sealed, then lawyers can start work on the various orders and regulations needed for devolution to occur on time in late February. Any further delay at this point guarantees a slippage in the "go live" date for Northern Ireland self rule.

**Northern Ireland Executive portfolios.** Trimble had been holding the line at six, while nationalists seek ten (this yields two portfolios for Sinn Fein). Trimble quietly relented on this last week. However, there will be no shadow executive, per se. Instead, the executive would come into being fully formed with no break-in period.

**Decommissioning.** There has been no substantive progress on IRA decommissioning to point to, aside from the procedural move of naming McGuinness to the Independent Commission -- he spent two hours with de Chastelain today, showing no flexibility and insisting that the Commission declare that progress is being made -- to no avail. There are two IRA statements on record that state there will be no decommissioning. Sinn Fein's position is that the GFA only requires the parties to use their influence to bring about decommissioning within two years. Senior SF officials say they have no room for maneuver with the IRA on this; the NIO says that they see no evidence that Adams is even trying to create room for action, while Dublin told me that they feel there is an active debate underway among senior IRA leadership that has some promise. At a minimum, the IRA has set up a situation where merely making a positive statement on disarming (general commitment to, or timetable) would be received as a positive development -- though London and the UUP are trying to reduce the value of this move. *Don Johnson told me today that the LVF will make a decommissioning gesture within twelve days. You should ask Mowlam for any intelligence she may*

have on IRA intentions and UUP willingness to compromise on the decommissioning-executive linkage.

**Involving the President.** Blair and Ahern agreed last week in Dublin that they would jointly call the President once a deal had been made with Trimble on the various political structures to seek his involvement in putting pressure on decommissioning. They would like him to recognize the positive developments in implementation (prisoners, troop reductions, beginning of criminal justice review, Patten policing commission work, enactment of the devolution legislation, and increased economic activity). They would also appreciate him combining a low-key public message on decommissioning with a pointed private message to Gerry Adams. *David Andrews, David Trimble and Paul Murphy (Mowlam's deputy) have asked for meetings with you and Sandy next week. Trimble has also made a point of asking for a private session with the President; we can expect Adams and Hume to have the same request. You should assure Mowlam that the President is prepared to make these points in public and private.*

**Irish America.** Mowlam heard clearly in Boston last week that Sinn Fein was spinning a line that the British government was letting the process stall and seeking to get the President to lean on Blair and Trimble. You will hear from your interlocutors that the President address his NDI audience in a way that makes it clear he doesn't share that view -- citing the security and prisoner examples above. On the latter point, HMG is taking increasing heat about continuing to release convicted terrorists with the IRA standing pat on decommissioning. There will be a break-down over this if the stalemate lingers past next summer. You should urge the NIO to be more active in publicizing the achievements in GFA implementation.

Attachment

Tab A Points to Make

Tab B Cable London 11814

December 2, 1998

**DECLASSIFIED**  
**PER E.O. 13526**  
2015-0157-M (1.25)  
KBH 3/3/2023

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES B. STEINBERG

THROUGH: DONALD K. BANDLER

FROM: LAWRENCE E. BUTLER

SUBJECT: Ireland Update for Mowlam Meeting, Friday,  
December 4, 1998

Tony Blair flew to Belfast Wednesday evening to smoke David Trimble out on a troublesome set of North-South Council implementation bodies. His goal is to get a package deal that includes definition of composition of the Northern Ireland Executive positions along with the North-South Council before the December 7 Kennedy Library event and December 8 NDI dinner. The fear is that there won't be another chance until after Christmas; momentum is important -- a similar malaise last year led to a series of killings that rocked the peace process.

If he succeeds, the parties come to Washington next week in a situation where the only area of the GFA on which precious little progress will have been made is decommissioning. Ahern has made it clear in public that Dublin shares London's view that decommissioning an integral element of GFA implementation and cannot wait for June 2000. He and Blair are likely to ask that the President make a low key statement on this at the dinner and press more firmly in private with Adams.

**North-South bodies.** Blair and Ahern visited Belfast repeatedly last month seeking Trimble's agreement on the definition of the North-South bodies. Last week there was convergence on eight bodies: tourism, transportation, waterways, Irish language, aquaculture, EU programs, food safety, and business development. The latter has been a redline for unionists and nationalists, with John Taylor adamantly opposed to anything that resembles an integrated approach to inward investment and trade development. Mallon has insisted that the body have precisely this role. If a deal is struck, the lawyers can start work on the various orders and regulations needed for devolution to occur on time in

late February. Any further delay at this point guarantees a slippage in the "go live" date for Northern Ireland self rule.

**Northern Ireland Executive portfolios.** Trimble had been holding the line at six, while nationalists seek ten (this yields two portfolios for Sinn Fein). Word was that Trimble was ready to cave on this point.

**Decommissioning.** There has been no substantive progress on decommissioning to point to, aside from the procedural move of naming McGuinness to the Independent Commission. There are two IRA statements on record that state there will be no decommissioning. Sinn Fein's position is that the GFA only requires the parties to use their influence to bring about decommissioning within two years. Senior SF officials say they have no room for maneuver with the IRA on this; the NIO says that they see no evidence that Adams is even trying to create room for action, while Dublin told me that they feel there is an active debate underway among senior IRA leadership that has some promise. At a minimum, the IRA has set up a situation where merely making a positive statement on disarming (general commitment to, or timetable) or would be received as a positive development. **You should ask Mowlam for any intelligence she may have on IRA intentions.**

**Involving the President.** Blair and Ahern agreed last week in Dublin that they would jointly call the President once a deal had been made with Trimble on the various political structures to seek his involvement in putting pressure on decommissioning. They would like him to recognize the positive developments in implementation (prisoners, troop reductions, beginning of criminal justice review, Patten policing commission work, enactment of the devolution legislation, and increased economic activity). They would also appreciate him combining a low-key public message on decommissioning with a pointed private message to Gerry Adams. *Mowlam, David Andrews and David Trimble have asked for meetings with you and Sandy next week. Trimble has also made a point of asking for a private session with the President; we can expect Adams and Hume to have the same request.* **You should assure Mowlam that the President is prepared to make these points in public and private.**

**Irish America.** Mowlam heard clearly in Boston last week that Sinn Fein was spinning a line that the British government was letting the process stall and seeking to get the President to lean on Blair and Trimble. You will hear from your interlocutors that the President address his NDI audience in a way that makes it clear he doesn't share that view -- citing the

security and prisoner examples above. On the latter point, HMG is taking increasing heat about continuing to release convicted terrorists with the IRA standing pat on decommissioning. There will be a break-down over this if the stalemate lingers past next summer. **You should urge the NIO to be more active in publicizing the achievements in GFA implementation.**

Attachment

Tab A Points to Make

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## TALKING POINTS

- Ireland's economic success has been remarkable.
- You will play a key role in assuring that success translates into increased trade and investment opportunities for U.S. business.
- The United States has very strong ties of kinship and culture with Ireland. But, as our relationship matures further, we will want to see Ireland take new responsibility in its partnership with America.
- The Irish Government is looking again at the possibility of joining NATO's Partnership for Peace. We will want you to encourage them along that path.
- As you well know, the President is very committed to remaining engaged in the Northern Ireland peace process. We will need you to be both creative and considered in your efforts to support the full implementation of the Good Friday agreement.

**DECLASSIFIED**  
**PER E.O. 13526**  
2015-0157-M (1.28)  
KBH 3/3/2023

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

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December 3, 1998

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES B. STEINBERG

THROUGH: DONALD K. BANDLER

FROM: LAWRENCE E. BUTLER

SUBJECT: Ireland Update for London Meetings, Friday,  
December 4, 1998

You may see Mo Mowlam tomorrow, and will have the opportunity to talk to NIO officials should events make that desirable. Blair Hall will give you an update on the NI situation when you arrive and confirm meetings as necessary. You will also see John Holmes late in the day for another opportunity to discuss Ireland.

Tony Blair succeeded in smoking David Trimble out last night on North-South Council implementation bodies, but there are details Mowlam et al. are trying to sort out on Thursday with the party leaders, aiming for a "roundtable" announcement on Friday. Adams, Hume and Mallon met this morning, and Adams was meeting with Trimble mid-afternoon. Blair and Ahern would likely attend if all get sorted out; the body language is very encouraging.

Blair appears to have his package deal that defines the composition of the ten Northern Ireland Executive positions along with up to eight North-South Council bodies. He wanted to secure this before the party leaders leave this weekend for the December 7 Kennedy Library event and December 8 NDI dinner. The fear is that there won't be another chance until after Christmas; momentum is important -- a similar malaise last year led to a series of killings that rocked the peace process.

If he pulls this off tomorrow, the parties come to Washington next week in a situation where the only area of the GFA on which precious little progress will have been made is decommissioning. Ahern has made it clear in public that Dublin shares London's view that decommissioning an integral element of GFA implementation and cannot wait for June 2000. You will be

[2015-0157-M, 1.29]

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

pressed for the President to make a low key statement on this at the dinner and press more firmly in private with Adams.

**North-South bodies.** Blair and Ahern visited Belfast repeatedly last month seeking Trimble's agreement on the definition of the North-South bodies. Last week there was convergence on eight separate bodies: tourism, transportation, waterways, Irish language, aquaculture, EU programs, food safety, and business development. The latter has been a redline for unionists and nationalists, with unionists opposed to anything that resembles an integrated approach to inward investment and trade development. Mallon has insisted that the body have precisely this role. The deal being struck reportedly removes inward investment, but covers domestic efforts. If the deal is sealed, then lawyers can start work on the various orders and regulations needed for devolution to occur on time in late February. They must move now to achieve the target "go live" date for Northern Ireland self rule.

**Northern Ireland Executive portfolios.** Trimble had been holding the line at six, while nationalists seek ten (this yields two portfolios for Sinn Fein). There seems to be consensus on ten seats. However, there will be no shadow executive, per se. Instead, the executive would come into being fully formed with no break-in period.

**Decommissioning.** There has been no substantive progress on IRA decommissioning to point to, aside from the procedural move of naming McGuinness to the Independent Commission. There are two IRA statements on record that state there will be no decommissioning. Sinn Fein's position is that the GFA only requires the parties to use their influence to bring about decommissioning within two years. *There is speculation that the LVF will make a decommissioning gesture within two weeks.* You should ask Mowlam for any information she may have on IRA intentions and UUP willingness to compromise on the decommissioning-executive linkage.

**Involving the President.** Blair and Ahern agreed last week in Dublin that they would jointly call the President once a deal had been made with Trimble on the various political structures to seek his involvement in putting pressure on decommissioning. They would like him to recognize the positive developments in implementation (prisoners, troop reductions, beginning of criminal justice review, Patten policing commission work, enactment of the devolution legislation, and increased economic activity). They would also appreciate him combining a low-key

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**Irish America.** Mowlam heard clearly in Boston last week that Sinn Fein was spinning a line that the British government was letting the process stall and seeking to get the President to lean on Blair and Trimble. You will hear from your interlocutors that when the President addresses his NDI audience, he do so in a way that makes it clear he doesn't share that view -- citing the security and prisoner examples above. On the latter point, HMG is taking increasing heat about continuing to release convicted terrorists with the IRA standing pat on decommissioning. **You should urge the NIO to be more active in publicizing the achievements in GFA implementation.**

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504



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**DECLASSIFIED**  
**PER E.O. 13526**  
2015-0157-M (1.31)  
KBH 3/3/2023

December 3, 1998

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Reason: 1.5(b,d)

Declassify On: 12/3/08

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Attachment

Tab A Points to Make

Tab B Cable London 11814

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

98 OCT 18 4 21 PM '98

DECLASSIFIED  
PER E.O. 13526

2015-0157-M (1.53)

October 16, 1998

KBH 3/3/2023

PHONE CALLS WITH  
NORTHERN IRELAND NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNERS

DATE: October 16, 1998

LOCATION: Oval Office

TIME: TBD

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER

(K) m

I. PURPOSE

To congratulate this year's Nobel Peace Prize winners and encourage progress on implementing the Northern Ireland Good Friday Accord.

II. BACKGROUND

The Norwegian Nobel Committee named Northern Ireland First Minister David Trimble and SDLP leader John Hume as this year's Peace Prize winners. Additionally, the positive contributions of other Northern Ireland leaders, the United States, Ireland and the United Kingdom were singled out for praise. The Committee expressed the hope that the Good Friday Accord will lead to lasting peace and that it will inspire peaceful solutions elsewhere. The medals will be handed out in Oslo on **December 10**.

We understand that the cut-off date for nominations was prior to the conclusion of the Good Friday Accord, hence the selection of just two (there could have been three) names. The Committee was aware of the political minefield inherent in this, and made a point in acknowledging the contributions of others. Gerry Adams has been positive in his comments though concerned about the impact of his exclusion on his credibility. He told us today that your comments about him this morning will help.

Northern Ireland is headed to another deadline on October 31, the date established for starting the North-South Council. This presupposed that the NI shadow executive would have been set up by now. The Nobel Award offers complications and an opportunity to galvanize

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Reason: 1.5(d)

Declassify On: 10/15/08

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implementation. Today is the last day that Trimble is in the United States.

Trimble is facing difficult UUP party events October 24 (general conference) and October 31 (executive council). As last year when he was under attack for participating in the all-party talks, he has similar challenges in the form of anti-Accord unionists. This threat has constrained him from moving forward with establishing the shadow executive absent concrete movement on IRA decommissioning. The Nobel medal could well serve as a talisman for taking yet another tough decision.

John de Chastelain is attempting to sell a streamlined sequence to get Trimble and Adams over the current impasse. He saw both Martin McGuinness and John Taylor October 15 to outline a three-step process: Trimble agrees to identify the NI Executive portfolios October 26. Between October 27 and 29, the IRA make a "credible Confidence building measure," i.e., blows up some Sementex. Trimble then selects the Members of the Executive.

McGuinness said the IRA could not accept a commitment to make a CBM nor to a timetable, but didn't close the door. Taylor accepted the timing, but wouldn't be pinned down as to what would constitute an acceptably concrete CBM ("we'll know it when we see it"). The two men will meet with de Chastelain again on Monday.

You should encourage Trimble to be flexible in defining his redlines. The argument is to use the Nobel prize to stake out the moral high ground and validate the Committee's selection -- if there is a major falling out over the shadow executive on October 31, he's going to have an image problem on December 10 in Oslo. Later this weekend, we may want you to call Adams, as well. It is important that this be separate in time from the Hume and Trimble calls (so as not to appear to be implicitly criticizing the decision not to include Adams as a prize winner), but also to give him the support he needs to show movement on the SF/IRA side. When you do talk to him, you should urge him to seize the initiative to demonstrate Sinn Fein's claim to peaceful intent, and use the December 10 Award ceremony to put all the onus on Trimble to have delivered the Executive if the IRA has started decommissioning.

III. PARTICIPANTS

John Hume, SDLP leader (in Derry)

David Trimble, Northern Ireland First Minister (in Denver)

Attachment

Tab A Points to make

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED  
PER E.O. 13526

2015-0157-M (155)

KBH 3/3/2023

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NORTHERN IRELAND NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNERS

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TIME: TBD

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*L this morning*

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implementation. Today is the last day that Trimble is in the United States.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED  
PER E.O. 13526

2015-0137-M (1.56)  
KBH 3/3/2023

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LOCATION: Oval Office

TIME: TBD

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To congratulate this year's Nobel Peace Prize winners and encourage progress on implementing the Northern Ireland Good Friday Accord.

II. BACKGROUND

The Norwegian Nobel Committee named Northern Ireland First Minister David Trimble and SDLP leader John Hume as this year's Peace Prize winners. Additionally, the positive contributions of other Northern Ireland leaders, the United States, Ireland and the United Kingdom were singled out for praise. The Committee expressed the hope that the Good Friday Accord will lead to lasting peace and that it will inspire peaceful solutions elsewhere. The medals will be handed out in Oslo on **December 10**.

We understand that the cut-off date for nominations was prior to the conclusion of the Good Friday Accord, hence the selection of just two (there could have been three) names. The Committee was aware of the political minefield inherent in this, and made a point in acknowledging the contributions of others. Nonetheless, I am sure that Gerry Adams felt snubbed by this, a feeling Mo Mowlam and George Mitchell may share to a lesser extent. ~~Gerry Adams~~ ~~has been~~

Northern Ireland is headed to another ~~decision~~ <sup>positive</sup> on October 31, the date established for starting the ~~North~~ <sup>Commonwealth</sup> South Council. This presupposed that the ~~NI shadow~~ <sup>executive</sup> executive would have been set-up by now. ~~Unconcerned~~ <sup>concerned</sup> about the offers complications and an opportunity to ~~galvanize~~ <sup>me</sup> ~~input~~ <sup>input</sup> of his exclusion on his credibility. He told us this morning that your comments about him may help

CONFIDENTIAL

Reason: 1.5(d)

Declassify On: 10/15/08

*Gerry Adams has been positive in his country high council that he support of his exclusion on his credibility we held up this way to way that you comments about him will help*

*Gerry Adams has been positive in his comments through the NI shadow executive about the me input of his exclusion on his credibility. He told us this morning that your comments about him may help*

implementation. Today is the last day that Trimble is in the United States.

Trimble is facing difficult UUP party events October 24 (general conference) and October 31 (executive council). As last year when he was under attack for participating in the all-party talks, he has similar challenges in the form of anti-Accord unionists. This threat has constrained him from moving forward with establishing the shadow executive absent concrete movement on IRA decommissioning. The Nobel medal could well serve as a talisman for taking yet another tough decision.

~~Unfortunately, Northern Ireland is still characterized by zero-sum politics. Having been overlooked by the Norwegians, Adams may feel undermined within his community. This offers you the opportunity to offer your support, which would be important to Adams just now. We recommend you call him late in the weekend. He will be in the New York City area tonight and tomorrow, wrapping a week of fundraising before going to Canada (where he has a meeting with Chretien and plans to spend time with relatives).~~

John de Chastelain is attempting to sell a streamlined sequence to get Trimble and Adams over the current impasse. He saw both Martin McGuinness and John Taylor October 15 to outline a three step process: Trimble agrees to identify the NI Executive portfolios October 26. Between October 27 and 29, the IRA make a "credible Confidence building measure," i.e., blows up some Semtex. Trimble then invokes the so-called "d'Hondt" selection process on October 30 for Executive membership.

McGuinness said the IRA could not accept a commitment to make a CBM nor to a timetable, but didn't close the door. Taylor accepted the timing, but wouldn't be pinned down as to what would constitute and acceptably concrete CBM ("we'll know it when we see it"). The two men will meet with de Chastelain again on Monday.

*eye encourage*  
You should ~~work to press~~ Trimble and Adams closer together ~~by seeking their agreement to unilateral movement across their established redlines.~~ In Trimble's case, the argument is to use the Nobel prize to stake out the moral high ground and validate the Committee's selection -- if there is a major falling out over the shadow executive on October 31, he's going to have an image problem on

*to be flexible in negotiating his*

December 10 in Oslo. In ~~Adam's~~, urge him to seize the initiative to demonstrate Sinn Fein's claim to peaceful intent, and use the December 10 Award ceremony to put all the onus on Trimble to have delivered the Executive if the IRA has started decommissioning.

III. PARTICIPANTS

John Hume, SDLP leader (in Derry)  
David Trimble, Northern Ireland First Minister (in Denver)

Attachment  
Tab A Points to make

Like this week, we may want you to call Adams, as well. It is important that he be separate in time from the Hume + Trimble calls (so as not to appear to be implicitly criticizing the ~~Adams~~ decision not to include Adams as a prize winner) but also to give him the support he needs to show movement on the SF/IRA side. When you do talk to him, you can

Later this weekend, we may want you to call Adams, as well.  
It is important <sup>that</sup> this be separate in time from the Hume + Trimble calls (so as not to appear to be implicitly criticizing the decision not to include Adams as a prize winner) but also to give him the support he needs to show movement on the SF/IRA side. When you do talk to him, you should

## Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE  
 CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
 LINE1: OAACZYUW RUEHLOA3792 0991209-CCCC--RHEHAAX.  
 LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
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 INFO: RUEHLOB/AMCONSUL BELFAST IMMEDIATE 0327  
 RUEHDL/AMEMBASSY DUBLIN IMMEDIATE 0276  
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 SUBJ: NORTHERN IRELAND: MOOD IMPROVED BUT NO DEAL AS  
 DEADLINE APPROACHES

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2015-0157-M (2.39)  
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TEXT:  
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NSC FOR STEINBERG AND BUTLER  
 SHANGHAI FOR BARBORIACK

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/09/14  
 TAGS: PREL, PGOV, UK, EI  
 SUBJECT: NORTHERN IRELAND: MOOD IMPROVED BUT NO DEAL AS  
 DEADLINE APPROACHES

REF: A) LONDON 3776 B) LONDON 3750

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY: KATHLEEN STEPHENS, BELFAST CONSUL  
 GENERAL. REASON: 1.5(B)

2. (U) SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH NO ONE IS PREDICTING ANYTHING WITH  
 CONFIDENCE, THE ATMOSPHERE INSIDE THE STORMONT TALKS IS  
 MARKEDLY BETTER ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 9, THE FINAL DAY OF  
 NEGOTIATIONS. A SERIES OF MEETINGS STRETCHING DEEP INTO THE  
 NIGHT SERIALLY INVOLVING THE GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING THE TWO  
 PRIME MINISTERS, THE INDEPENDENT CHAIRMEN AND THE PARTIES HAVE  
 REKINDLED HOPE THAT A LAST-MINUTE DEAL CAN BE ACHIEVED. THE  
 GOVERNMENTS ARE FIRM ON THE DEADLINE TODAY. HOWEVER,  
 RECOGNIZING THE PROBABILITY THAT THE ENDGAME WILL TAKE MORE  
 TIME TO PLAY OUT, THEY DO NOT INTEND TO PULL THE PLUG AT  
 MIDNIGHT IF AT THAT TIME IT APPEARS AN AGREEMENT IS WITHIN  
 GRASP. END SUMMARY.

3. (U) IRISH TAOISEACH BERTIE AHERN JOINED PRIME MINISTER  
 TONY BLAIR IN A SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH PARTIES AFTER  
 RETURNING TO BELFAST WEDNESDAY EVENING. ACCORDING TO THE NIO,  
 THE LEADERS' "BUSINESS-LIKE" 30-MINUTE MEETING WITH DAVID  
 TRIMBLE, WHICH ENDED AT ABOUT 8 PM, SEEMED TO MAKE PROGRESS ONBHE STRAND TWO ISSUES.  
 WITH TRIMBLE LATER IN THE EVENING AND ALSO MET SEVERAL TIMES  
 WITH THE SDLP NEGOTIATING TEAM. BRITISH AND IRISH OFFICIALS  
 BELIEVE THEY CAN "RETOOL" PARTS OF THE DRAFT AGREEMENT TO TAKE  
 CARE OF "SOME OF TRIMBLE'S CONCERNS." BLAIR AND AHERN  
 REMAINED IN BELFAST OVERNIGHT AND ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE FINAL  
 PUSH.

4. (U) ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO PLENARY SESSION INVOLVING ALL PARTIES, NIO MINISTER PAUL MURPHY HELD A NUMBER OF MEETINGS TO REVIEW THE STRUCTURAL AND PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR A NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY. SENATOR MITCHELL AND THE INDEPENDENT CHAIRMEN ALSO MET WITH THE PARTIES IN WHAT THOSE INVOLVED DESCRIBED AS "INTENSIVE SESSIONS." ONE PARTICIPANT, RECALLING THAT SENATOR MITCHELL HAD SAID PARTIES WOULD EAT, SLEEP AND WORK AT STORMONT AS THE DEADLINE APPROACHED, REMARKED THAT THE CHAIRMAN "WAS WRONG ABOUT THE SLEEP."

5. (U) THE ATMOSPHERE WITHIN THE TALKS IS MARKEDLY IMPROVED THIS MORNING COMPARED TO 24 HOURS AGO AND PARTICIPANTS NOW ARE OFFERING MORE UPBEAT PUBLIC COMMENTS ON PROSPECTS. THE MOOD CAN SWING QUICKLY IN EITHER DIRECTION, HOWEVER, AND WHETHER AN AGREEMENT ACTUALLY WILL BE REACHED REMAINS ANYBODY'S GUESS. MOST PARTICIPANTS ARE SAYING A DEAL IS POSSIBLE, BUT NONE ARE PREDICTING ONE WITH ANY CERTAINTY.

6. (U) SERVING TO DAMPEN HOPES YESTERDAY WAS A STATEMENT ISSUED BY FOUR OF THE UUP'S 10 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT URGING TRIMBLE TO REJECT THE DRAFT AGREEMENT, EVEN IF AMENDED. MP'S WILLIE ROSS, WILLIAM THOMPSON, ROY BEGGS AND CLIFFORD FORSYTHE TERMED THE DOCUMENT "COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE" AND CALLED FOR TRIMBLE TO LEAVE THE TALKS IMMEDIATELY. THIS REINFORCES UUP DEPUTY LEADER JOHN TAYLOR'S EARLIER DESCRIPTION OF THE DOCUMENT AS "UNTOUCHABLE AND INCAPABLE OF AMENDMENT." EVEN THOUGH THE FOUR MEMBERS DO NOT NECESSARILY WIELD SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE WITHIN THE PARTY AND THEIR VIEWS ALREADY WERE WELL KNOWN, THE FACT THAT HALF OF THE MEMBERS OF HIS PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION HAVE GONE ON RECORD AGAINST THE DEAL CAN ONLY INCREASE THE PRESSURE ON TRIMBLE. A UUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR 6 PM TO REVIEW THE PARTY'S POSITIO.

7. (U) THE GOVERNMENTS AND SENATOR MITCHELL ARE DETERMINED TO BRING THE TALKS TO A CONCLUSION BY THE DEADLINE. OFFICIALS BELIEVE IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS COULD OR SHOULD BE SUSTAINED INTO EXT WEEK. BUT NO ONE IS RULING OUT ANYTHING AT THIS POINT AND THE GOVERNMENTS RECOGNIZE THAT THE ENDGAME IS LIKELY TO TAKE MORE TIME TO PLAY OUT. THEY DO NOT INTEND TO PULL THE PLUG AT MIDNIGHT IF AT THAT TIME IT APPEARS A DEAL IS WITHIN GRASP, BUT THE CURRENT THINKING ON AN EXTENSION APPEARS TO BE IN TERMS OF HOURS RATHER THAN DAYS.  
LADER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

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## Points to Make with Gary Schiffman

- GFA implementation is rolling out strongly.
- Exception is work on the new executive body, and north-south bodies.
- Tied up is demands for earlier than required decommissioning.
- Other areas doing well include:
  - Prisoners 200/450 (including Jimmie Smith and Joe Doherty)
  - Assembly -- BC and EU programs working well ✓
  - Policing reform - Chris Patten on schedule to issue report nlt summer 1999.
- N-S bodies -- close to agreement on # and types
- NI roadshow was successful
- Only two deaths since Omagh -- IRA punishment shooting and Loyalist random killing.
- Way forward: Decommissioning is symbolic for both sides: Trimble knows this and doesn't need much.
- IRA needs to say something forward leaning (3x no so far)
- Trimble needs to start running the government faster to lock in political benefits of an 71% yes vote.
- Trouble ahead: marching season, February handover. in jeopardy

[Trimble + Mallon]

- Jeffrey Donaldson --> top DUP - critic
- Queen to Ireland / P. Philip
- Blair w. NSJ - speak to Dail