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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 4, 1998

98 AUG 4 PM 3:23

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER *[Signature]*
LARRY STEIN *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: Northern Ireland -- Letter to Representative Meehan

Purpose

Respond to a letter from Representative Meehan on the Northern Ireland marches.

Background

Marty Meehan wrote to ask that you urge the British Government to stand firmly behind the Northern Ireland Parade Commission's decision not to allow the Orange Order to march on the Garvaghy Road from Drumcree.

Prime Minister Blair, indeed, supported the decision to block the march, which led to much violence, and ultimately, the arson attack that killed three Catholic boys. That was the act that ended the stand-off at Drumcree. Your response notes your agreement that those who use violence to block democratic change should not be allowed to succeed, states your optimism in the prospects for Irish peace and calls for vigilance against those who seek to undermine it.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter at Tab A.

Attachments

- Tab A Letter to Representative Meehan
- Tab B Incoming Correspondence

OK AD
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Marty:

Thank you for your letter on the Orange Order's parade in Northern Ireland. I agree that we can not allow those who resort to violence to succeed. I hope the deaths of the three innocent children serve to remind all parties of the costs of confrontation and failure of dialogue.

Despite the recent violence, I am optimistic for the prospects for peace in Northern Ireland. Prime Minister Blair and Mo Mowlam deserve much credit for their resoluteness during this summer's marching season. As we support their efforts and those of all those working toward peace, we must guard against those who would drag Northern Ireland back into a cycle of violence.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A
Bin

The Honorable Martin T. Meehan
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

NSC PACKAGE

8-5-98
(date)

RM:

OK FOR SIGNATURE PER PHIL CAPLAN/SEAN MALONEY.

RETURN ALL LETTER(S) AND ORIGINAL MEMO(S) TO

STAFF SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

CP
(initials)

Okay for Signature by
Dep Stf Secretary Phil Caplan
Date 8-5-98

ME

273293SS
C0081

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 6, 1998

Dear Marty:

Thank you for your letter on the Orange Order's parade in Northern Ireland. I agree that we can not allow those who resort to violence to succeed. I hope the deaths of the three innocent children serve to remind all parties of the costs of confrontation and failure of dialogue.

Despite the recent violence, I am optimistic for the prospects for peace in Northern Ireland. Prime Minister Blair and Mo Mowlam deserve much credit for their resoluteness during this summer's marching season. As we support their efforts and those of all those working toward peace, we must guard against those who would drag Northern Ireland back into a cycle of violence.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,
A
Bin

The Honorable Martin T. Meehan
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ID 9805128

REFERRAL

DATE: 06 AUG 98

MEMORANDUM FOR: WH STRIPPING DESK

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: TO: MEEHAN, MARTIN T

SOURCE: PRESIDENT

DATE: 06 AUG 98

SUBJ: ORANGE ORDER & PARADES IN NORTHERN IRELAND

REQUIRED ACTION: FOR DISPATCH

DUE DATE: 07 AUG 98

COMMENT:


FOR JOHN W. FICKLIN

NSC RECORDS MANAGEMENT OFFICE