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THE WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

CO 081

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: OCTOBER 26, 1993

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE ROBERT A. BORSKI

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO FULFILL HIS PROMISE  
HE MADE TO THE IRISH - AMERICANS REGARDING  
ENDING THE CONFLICT IN THE NORTHERN IRELAND

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
		ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C D
HOWARD PASTER		ORG	93/10/26		C 93/10/26
WILLIAM ITOH		RSA	93/10/26		
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
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COMMENTS: ADDITIONAL SIGNEES  
ENCLOSED EDITORIAL DATED SEP 26 93

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: 23 MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1230 1240

MAIL USER CODES: (A) D PA (B) (C)

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*                      *                      *CORRESPONDENCE:  *
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION  *A-ANSWERED          *TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM       *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL *          OF SIGNER   *
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*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *                      *                      *
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ROBERT A. BORSKI  
3D DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

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09/17/98  
Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3803  
October 18, 1998

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The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As members of the Ad Hoc Congressional Committee for Irish Affairs, we are writing once again to urge you to fulfill the promises you have made to the Irish-American community to work toward ending the conflict in Northern Ireland.

We first commend you for the role you played to help achieve the historic signing of the Israeli-Palestinian peace accord. The leadership, commitment and persistence of your Administration helped to bring two longtime adversaries to the peace table.

Now is the time to show similar leadership in another longstanding regional conflict. We believe a strong potential exists for a similar breakthrough in Northern Ireland. If longtime enemies in the Middle East can agree to peace talks, then the factions in Northern Ireland can certainly do likewise.

As a first step, the Clinton Administration should appoint a special envoy to jumpstart the peace process in Northern Ireland. As in the Middle East, a third-country entity can help break the impasse and bring new hope to a desperate situation.

In addition, the Administration must recognize Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams as a legitimate participant in this process. To date, he has been excluded, even though he represents a significant number of Catholics in Northern Ireland. The U.S. must recognize that peace is not possible without Mr. Adams' participation, and must also allow him to enter the U.S. to speak freely about the conflict.

The enclosed editorial, which appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer on September 26, reinforces our belief that your Administration must now make a strong commitment toward ending this volatile conflict. Your strong leadership and hard work helped to bring peace in the Middle East. We urge you to renew your pledge to the Irish-American community by working to bring about a similar historic breakthrough in Northern Ireland.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Borski, M.C.



Thomas J. Manton, M.C.

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October 18, 1993

Page 2

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## EDITORIALS

# Next, Ireland

*It's time for these old enemies to reconcile*

John Major, meet Gerry Adams.

If the Israelis can make peace with the Palestinians, if Yitzhak Rabin can shake Yasir Arafat's hand, then Britain's prime minister can sit down at a table and talk about peace in Northern Ireland with the leader of the political wing of the Irish Republican Army.

For a generation, the "troubles" have convulsed Northern Ireland, claiming more than 3,000 lives since 1969. The IRA, demanding union with the Irish Republic, bombs and snipes against a much larger force of troops and police. The British denounce them as criminal terrorists, rather than guerrillas with a cause, and refuse to talk to Mr. Adams unless he renounces IRA violence.

We don't condone violence no matter who perpetrates it. (And we note that British conduct in Northern Ireland has been condemned by Amnesty International and the European Court of Human Rights.) But now is the time to stop fighting and start talking.

It's time to recognize that there will be no peace in Northern Ireland unless Mr. Adams and his supporters are included in discussions, rather than being the only faction excluded. Politically, Mr. Adams represents about a third of northern Catholics, the most poor, the most angry. It's time to forge ahead, despite the certain opposition of the likes of the Rev. Ian Paisley, the leader of an extremist Protestant Unionist party that winks at the violent acts by its adherents.

The United States can help the peace process by recognizing Mr. Adams' necessary role, rather than banning him from our shores at the behest of the British as a terrorist sympathizer. Our government should recognize that Britain is not an "honest broker" seeking to restore peace

among warring Irish tribes, but one of the combatants. It needs to be prodded into seeking a solution, the more so since Mr. Major sought Unionist support to keep his Conservative Party in power in a confidence vote last July. This followed his virulent denunciation of a novel proposal from the Labor Party for the Irish Republic and Britain to exercise joint sovereignty over Northern Ireland.

President Clinton should follow up on his campaign promise to appoint a "peace envoy" to push for a solution. As the British magazine, *The Economist*, noted recently, "an American envoy might offer fresh thoughts."

For despite continued bloodshed in Northern Ireland, there is reason to hope. As in the Middle East, "track two" talks between people of good will, and even rival politicians, Catholic and Protestant, have been going on for years. The Anglo-Irish agreement of 1985 between Britain and the Republic of Ireland established a framework for political cooperation. Both are members of the European Community, meaning that the island's economy is already in the process of integration.

There are certainly vast differences that must be bridged, but can they be any greater than those that separated Israelis and Palestinians?

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