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WE

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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98 MAR 26 AM 8:54

March 26, 1998

ACTION

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MAY 20

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER (K) For
LARRY STEIN JS

SUBJECT: Letter to Senator Helms on Northern Ireland Peace Process

Purpose

To respond to a letter from Senator Helms on the Northern Ireland peace process.

Background

Senator Helms wrote you regarding the expulsion of both the UDP and Sinn Fein from the Northern Ireland peace talks in response to the recent killings of Catholics and Protestants. Subsequent to his letter, Sinn Fein was expelled, and reentered the talks March 23, and UDP's period of suspension ended several weeks earlier. Senator Helms, referring to your letter to him last November, calls on you to designate the IRA and Sinn Fein as foreign terrorist organizations in response to the IRA's breach of the cease-fire.

In your November letter, you wrote that Madeleine had taken "note of the July 19, 1997, announcement by the IRA of an unequivocal cease-fire, as well as the subsequent decision by the British government that the cease-fire was 'genuine in word and deed,' permitting Sinn Fein to join the inclusive, all-party talks in Belfast. Under these circumstances, Secretary Albright continues to review the IRA. Obviously, any resumption of violence by the IRA would have a direct impact on the ongoing review. Secretary Albright, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury, can and will designate more organizations as foreign terrorist organizations if their actions warrant designation."

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

Your reply to Helms emphasizes that UDP's and Sinn Fein's expulsion from, and return to, the talks represented an affirmation of the Mitchell Principles of non-violence. In the context of the twin cease-fires holding and the parties remaining committed to the talks process, the Secretary of State continues to review the IRA, and can, if necessary, designate additional entities as foreign terrorist organizations if so warranted.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab A Letter to Senator Helms
Tab B Incoming correspondence

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. Chairman:

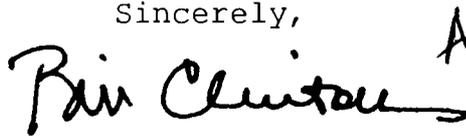
Thank you for your letter on the Northern Ireland peace process. It was an important affirmation of the Mitchell Principles of non-violence governing the peace process when both UDP and Sinn Fein were suspended from the talks following recent killings. In our public comments, my Administration supported both decisions by the British and Irish governments.

As you are aware, both the UDP and Sinn Fein were ruled eligible to rejoin the talks and did so.

The Secretary of State is closely following the situation and continues to keep the IRA's designation as a foreign terrorist organization under review.

Thank you for sharing with me your concerns on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A

The Honorable Jesse Helms
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-6225

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 3, 1998

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter on the Northern Ireland peace process. It was an important affirmation of the Mitchell Principles of non-violence governing the peace process when both UDP and Sinn Fein were suspended from the talks following recent killings. In our public comments, my Administration supported both decisions by the British and Irish governments.

As you are aware, both the UDP and Sinn Fein were ruled eligible to rejoin the talks and did so.

The Secretary of State is closely following the situation and continues to keep the IRA's designation as a foreign terrorist organization under review.

Thank you for sharing with me your concerns on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A
Bill Clinton

The Honorable Jesse Helms
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-6225

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ID 9801231

REFERRAL

DATE: 06 APR 98

MEMORANDUM FOR: WH STRIPPING DESK

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: TO: HELMS, JESSE A
SOURCE: PRESIDENT
DATE: 03 APR 98
SUBJ: LTR TO SEN HELMS ON NORTHERN IRELAND PEACE PROCESS

REQUIRED ACTION: FOR DISPATCH

DUE DATE: 07 APR 98

COMMENT:

(FOR)



JOHN W. FICKLIN

NSC RECORDS MANAGEMENT OFFICE