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OA/ID Number: 21689
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WE

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 11, 1999

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER *SB*

SUBJECT: Northern Ireland: Commemorating Omagh Bombing

Purpose

To acknowledge the anniversary of the bombing in Omagh and advance the Northern Ireland peace process.

Background

August 15 marks the anniversary of the bombing in Omagh, which killed 29 people and injured hundreds. The commemoration events will draw wide attention. In view of the current impasse over implementation of the Good Friday Accord, your message on this occasion will focus public attention on the need for all parties to compromise.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter at Tab A.

Attachment

Tab A Letter Commemorating Omagh Bombing

DE
OK to AP
R (U) 8.12.99

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

To the People of Omagh:

As you commemorate the anniversary of the bombing that rocked Omagh last August 15, I want you to know that the prayers of all Americans and of peace-loving people everywhere are with you and your families. Your courage and resilience since that tragedy are a moving tribute to those who perished a year ago. Their lives and memory will never be forgotten, and neither will the struggles of those scarred physically and emotionally by the terrible events last year. I will always remember my visit in the aftermath of the bombing, my conversations with many of you, and your determination to build a better world for your children.

Together we must affirm that violence has no place in Northern Ireland's future, and that the day of the gun and the bomb is over once and for all. A new and better future dawned with the Good Friday Accord, and I believe that full implementation of the Accord is still the foundation upon which a just and inclusive peace will be built in Northern Ireland. The people have spoken, and they expect no less of their leaders than an unswerving dedication to build this new reality. Let that be the legacy of Omagh -- a renewed commitment on all sides that cooperation will replace conflict, that dialogue will replace diatribe, and that no community on this island will ever again suffer such a terrible loss.

Hillary joins me in expressing our sorrow for what you have lost and our support for what you are striving to build.

Bill Clinton A

Returned to Staff Sec
8-12-97

NSC PACKAGE

(date)

RM:

OK FOR SIGNATURE PER SEAN MALONEY.

RETURN ALL LETTER(S) AND ORIGINAL MEMO(S) TO
STAFF SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

(initials)

Okay for Signature by
Dep Stf Secretary David Goodfriend
Date 8-12-99

