

FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records
Subgroup/Office of Origin: Records Management - SUBJECT FILE
Series/Staff Member:
Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 21689
Scan ID: 141801
Document Number:

Folder Title:
CO081

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
S	83	5	6	3

ID# 141801

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

CO 081

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: DECEMBER 05, 1995

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE BENJAMIN GILMAN

SUBJECT: URGES THE GOVERNMENT TO EXPRESS PROTECTION
AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS AN ESSENTIAL
STEP IN THE PEACE PROCESS WHEN VISITING
IRELAND

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	STAFF NAME	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
		ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
PATRICK GRIFFIN		ORG	95/12/05		C 95/12/05
ANDREW SENS	REFERRAL NOTE:	RSA	95/12/05		
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: 4 MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1240
MAIL USER CODES: (A)R_NY (B) (C)

```

*****
*ACTION CODES:          *DISPOSITION          *OUTGOING          *
*                       *                       *CORRESPONDENCE:  *
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION  *A-ANSWERED          *TYPE RESP-INITIALS *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM       *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL *   OF SIGNER      *
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE      *C-COMPLETED        *   CODE = A       *
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET  *S-SUSPENDED        *COMPLETED = DATE OF *
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*                       *   OUTGOING      *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *                       *                   *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE       *                       *                   *
*X-INTERIM REPLY       *                       *                   *
*****

```

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
(ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT-2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

SCANNED

Correct

copy

—

141801

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

November 20, 1995

Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

The protection and promotion of human rights is an essential step in the peace process in Northern Ireland. President Clinton, we hope that your visit to Northern Ireland will emphasize the importance of human rights as the cornerstone of the peace process.

First, we believe it is essential that the government of the United Kingdom should repeal all provisions in the Northern Ireland emergency legislation which are not in conformity with international standards. The implementation of this legislation, according to Amnesty International and other observers, has led to numerous violations of international human rights.

Human rights observers have expressed particular concern about suspects detained at special interrogation centers, who have been held virtually incommunicado, in breach of international standards, and at times subjected to various forms of ill-treatment. Both the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (ECPT) and the Independent Commissioner for Holding Centres have been critical of conditions at Castlereagh. Amnesty International has also expressed concern about the lower standard of admissibility of confession evidence under emergency legislation in the "Diplock Court" system than under ordinary legislation. As a result of this lower standard of admissibility, defendants in Northern Ireland are often convicted solely on the basis of uncorroborated confessions whose credibility has been called into questions.

We hope you will urge the government of the United Kingdom to order a thorough investigation of every case in which a Diplock Court conviction has been questioned. Such a painstaking review of the emergency court system will give the British government a chance to demonstrate both its confidence in the essential soundness of its institutions and its good faith in the peace process.

The British government can also show its willingness to create a lasting peace based on respect for human rights by investigating all complaints of abuse or unfair treatment related to the conflict in Northern Ireland. Investigating such allegations will help to prevent future violations and open the door for dialogue between the government and its critics. Both of these steps are necessary for finding an acceptable solution to the conflict.

We hope that you will also urge an immediate end to human rights violations by armed political groups. According to human rights observers, these violations include "punishment beatings" and shootings of those suspected of disloyalty, the torture or killing of prisoners, other deliberate and arbitrary killings, and the taking of hostages. The upcoming talks in Northern Ireland should serve to reinforce a commitment on all sides to end these abuses.

President Clinton, you must be certain to confirm the United States' commitment to human rights during your talks with leaders from the United Kingdom and Ireland. A lasting peace can only begin with the affirmation and protection of human rights. Your Administration's strong support for human rights is needed now.

Sincerely,



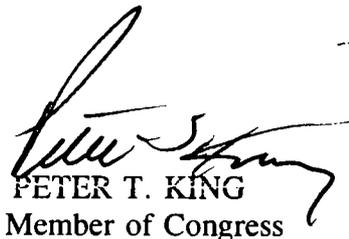
BENJAMIN A. GILMAN
Member of Congress



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress



TOM LANTOS
Member of Congress



PETER T. KING
Member of Congress



JAMES P. MORAN
Member of Congress

141807

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

November 20, 1995

Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

The protection and promotion of human rights is an essential step in the peace process in Northern Ireland. President Clinton, we hope that your visit to Northern Ireland will emphasize the importance of human rights as the cornerstone of the peace process.

First, we believe it is essential that the government of the United Kingdom should repeal all provisions in the Northern Ireland emergency legislation which are not in conformity with international standards. The implementation of this legislation, according to Amnesty International and other observers, has led to numerous violations of international human rights.

Human rights observers have expressed particular concern about suspects detained at special interrogation centers, who have been held virtually incommunicado, in breach of international standards, and at times subjected to various forms of ill-treatment. Both the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (ECPT) and the Independent Commissioner for Holding Centres have been critical of conditions at Castlereagh. Amnesty International has also expressed concern about the lower standard of admissibility of confession evidence under emergency legislation in the "Diplock Court" system than under ordinary legislation. As a result of this lower standard of admissibility, defendants in Northern Ireland are often convicted solely on the basis of uncorroborated confessions whose credibility has been called into questions.

We hope you will urge the government of the United Kingdom to order a thorough investigation of every case in which a Diplock Court conviction has been questioned. Such a painstaking review of the emergency court system will

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

12-15-95

Wanda:

Record # 141801 was
originally submitted to OAM
with the last 2 lines
of page 1 missing. Please
replace it with the attached
correction.

Jocelyn

141807

C0081

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

November 20, 1995 :

Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

The protection and promotion of human rights is an essential step in the peace process in Northern Ireland. President Clinton, we hope that your visit to Northern Ireland will emphasize the importance of human rights as the cornerstone of the peace process.

First, we believe it is essential that the government of the United Kingdom should repeal all provisions in the Northern Ireland emergency legislation which are not in conformity with international standards. The implementation of this legislation, according to Amnesty International and other observers, has led to numerous violations of international human rights.

Human rights observers have expressed particular concern about suspects detained at special interrogation centers, who have been held virtually incommunicado, in breach of international standards, and at times subjected to various forms of ill-treatment. Both the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (ECPT) and the Independent Commissioner for Holding Centres have been critical of conditions at Castlereagh. Amnesty International has also expressed concern about the lower standard of admissibility of confession evidence under emergency legislation in the "Diplock Court" system than under ordinary legislation. As a result of this lower standard of admissibility, defendants in Northern Ireland are often convicted solely on the basis of uncorroborated confessions whose credibility has been called into questions.

We hope you will urge the government of the United Kingdom to order a thorough investigation of every case in which a Diplock Court conviction has been questioned. Such a painstaking review of the emergency court system will

↑ missing
last 2
lines