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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

OCT 26 P2:50

October 26, 1996

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ANTHONY LAKE

SUBJECT: Letter to Frank Durkan

Purpose

To respond to a letter from Frank Durkan, Chair of Americans for a New Irish Agenda.

Background

Mr. Durkan wrote to you concerning the Northern Ireland peace process. Your response is at Tab A.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter at Tab A.

Attachments

- Tab A Letter to Frank Durkan
- Tab B Incoming correspondence

AP

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. Durkan:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter concerning the Northern Ireland peace process. I too am convinced that the way to a just and lasting settlement in Northern Ireland lies through the talks that are currently being held in Belfast. They represent an historic opportunity to move beyond ancient animosities and forge the bright and prosperous future the people of Ireland, North and South, all want. Both the British and Irish Governments have said that the talks must move rapidly into substantive negotiations. My Administration remains in touch with the two governments and the parties and actively supports their efforts to move the talks forward.

We also share the view of the British and Irish Governments that the prospects for success in the talks will be greater if they are inclusive, with Sinn Fein participating. That can only happen, however, if the IRA cease-fire is restored. I was outraged by the callous bombing at Lisburn and I admire the restraint and courage the loyalists have shown in not responding to that provocation.

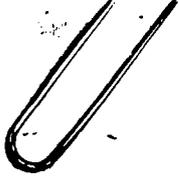
I am confident that a sustainable peace can be achieved in Northern Ireland. I can assure you that my Administration will continue its diplomatic efforts to help bring it about. As always, I appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A

Bill Clinton

Frank Durkan, Esquire
O'Dwyer and Bernstein
50 Duane Street
Fifth Floor
New York, New York 10007



10-28-96
(date)

NSC PACKAGE

RM:

OK FOR SIGNATURE PER TODD STERN

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

cc
(Initials)

Okay for Signature by
Staff Secretary Todd Stern
Date 10-28-96