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October 4, 1994

President William J. Clinton  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

This is the first time I've written a President since, as a young boy, I wrote President Kennedy to request a photograph. The enclosed article from today's Washington Post prompted this letter.

As you move the United States toward a position of recognition of the Irish Republican Army as a political entity, it is imperative that you have all of the facts at your command which are necessary to enable you to make the appropriate decisions based upon the best interests of the United States.

On December 17, 1983, the IRA bombed Harrod's department store in London, using a "car bomb" parked on a busy street filled with Christmas shoppers. This bomb was intended to cause casualties among the innocent pedestrians present that day and it succeeded in doing so, killing several innocent bystanders including my college roommate Kenneth G. Salvesen.

Ken was an American citizen, one of the outstanding members of my 1974 graduating class at the Cornell University College of Engineering. He went on to receive two degrees from Stanford University, a Masters in Engineering and a Masters in Business Administration. At the time of his death, he was in London conducting business on behalf of his employer the Boston Consulting Group of Chicago, Illinois. He was married and was the father of two small children. The day he was killed, he had phoned Chicago and spoken to his wife to congratulate her on her completion, that very day, of her medical degree. The same day,

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she took a plane flight to London to spend the Christmas holidays with Ken. When the plane took off from Chicago, Ken was alive. When his wife arrived in London, she was greeted with the news of Ken's murder. Ken's murderers have never been brought to justice.

Our country has always taken the moral high ground in our dealings with other countries. Thus, we refused to grant diplomatic recognition to Vietnam for many years while issues such as those concerning our "missing in action" were negotiated. Similarly, we have continued to press the government of Libya to produce the conspirators responsible for the destruction of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

In the same vein, the IRA is directly responsible for the murder of numerous innocent civilians including an American, Kenneth G. Salvesen. His children will grow up having been deprived of their father by murderous terrorists. His parents will never be the same as they were prior to his death. His friends miss him on a daily basis.

Until such time as the murderers of Kenneth G. Salvesen are brought to justice, the IRA should be barred from any further official contact with our officials.

I share your wish for a permanent peace for Northern Ireland. However, if your administration continues along its current path, you will be lending comfort to terrorists worldwide, telling them that they may murder with impunity and that, with the passage of time, all will be forgotten and forgiven. EVEN MURDER!

I urge you to re-think your policy toward the IRA and to demand that they turn in the murderers of Ken Salvesen. His family and friends will always remember him fondly and with love and we hope that now that you have become acquainted with his story, you will never forget him.

Very truly yours,



H. Jay Spiegel

# Clinton Eases Restrictions As Sinn Fein Head Arrives

By Thomas W. Lippman  
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Clinton yesterday lifted the longstanding U.S. ban on official contact with Sinn Fein, the political wing of the outlawed Irish Republican Army, and invited Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams to "begin a dialogue" with Washington.

After a weekend of negotiations, the Clinton administration also raised the level of the U.S. officials Adams was invited to meet at the State Department today.

Administration officials said these gestures were intended to reward Adams for his role in arranging the cease-fire announced by the IRA in late August, which the Clinton administration views as the first serious opportunity in a generation to negotiate a peace settlement in Northern Ireland. Adams, until recently a pariah and still officially a terrorist, has been sanitized by the cease-fire and transformed virtually overnight into a legitimate diplomatic interlocutor.

But Clinton declined to allow Adams to be received at the White House, keeping what U.S. officials and diplomatic sources said was a promise to British Prime Minister John Major. British officials said they are still not convinced that the IRA has forsworn violence, and they have been advocating caution in accepting Adams's promises at face value.

As recently as Friday, according to several sources, the only U.S. official the administration was offering for a meeting with Adams was J. Michael Lekson, director of the State Department's office of Northern European Affairs. Adams's program in Washington also included a private dinner party at

which he would meet National Security Council staff members informally.

But Adams wanted to see Vice President Gore at the White House, as other political leaders from Northern Ireland have done.

"We thought we had the balance pretty well set," a White House official said, "but over the weekend, the British press was portraying this as 'White House Shuns Gerry Adams.'" Having taken the risk of granting Adams a U.S. visa last spring in an effort to show him he could gain more by peaceful talk than by violence, the administration did not want to be seen as shutting the door to him, this official said.

On Sunday, according to a White House statement yesterday, Gore telephoned Adams to inform him that the 20-year ban on official contacts would be lifted—an obvious legal prerequisite to a meeting between Adams and U.S. officials.

At the same time, national security adviser Anthony Lake offered a compromise on the meeting schedule: Adams is not welcome at the White House, but he will meet at the State Department with a U.S. team headed by John C. Kornblum, senior deputy assistant secretary of state for European affairs.

Also in the meeting will be Leon S. Fuerth, Gore's national security adviser, and NSC staff director Nancy E. Soderberg. Soderberg was formerly on the staff of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), who has been closely associated with the Northern Ireland issue and who met Adams at Boston's Logan International Airport when he arrived in the United States.

The White House released the text of a letter Lake wrote to Adams on Sunday say-



BY RAY LUSTIG—THE WASHINGTON POST  
Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams was invited to "start a dialogue" with Washington.

ing that the State Department meeting will be "the beginning of a process of engagement with Sinn Fein that would increase as events progressed in Northern Ireland toward peace." The topics the Clinton administration wants to discuss, Lake said, include how Washington can be helpful in the various political forums and dialogues being discussed by the British and Irish governments and the Northern Irish factions, and how the United States can promote economic development in Northern Ireland, which Irish political leaders say is the key to peace. The Clinton administration does not plan to offer specific proposals for resolving the Northern Ireland conflict, officials said.