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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 9, 1996

Dear Senator McCain:

Thank you for your letter on the Northern Ireland peace process. Since you wrote, all of us have been dismayed and outraged by the IRA bombings in London. I have condemned these cowardly acts in the strongest terms. The cease-fire must be restored.

I have been heartened, however, by the refusal of the British and Irish Governments, the parties and most of all the people of Northern Ireland to allow the violence to derail their search for peace. On February 28, Prime Ministers Major and Bruton announced a clear path to substantive, all-party talks starting June 10. For Sinn Fein to participate, the cease-fire must first be restored. The setting of that date is a watershed for the peace process; it is what we have all been working for. On March 21, the British government announced an elective process that will lead directly to substantive negotiations on the future of Northern Ireland.

I will continue to work closely with the Irish and British Governments and the parties in support of their efforts to end the violence and bring about a just and lasting peace. In that context, I granted a visa to Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams to visit the United States in April so he could hear directly from Irish-Americans on the urgency of restoring the peace process. Mr. Adams did not seek to raise funds during his visit here, and the Administration made clear he would be held to that commitment. He was not invited to any White House events nor did he have meetings at other government departments.

We will do all we can to help create and nurture the climate for peace to take hold in Northern Ireland, including continued support for economic and commercial initiatives aimed at creating jobs. I appreciate hearing from you on this issue, which is so important to all of us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robin Christy".

The Honorable John McCain
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ID 9601252

REFERRAL

DATE: 10 MAY 96

MEMORANDUM FOR: WH STRIPPING DESK

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: TO: MCCAIN, JOHN
SOURCE: PRESIDENT
DATE: 09 MAY 96
SUBJ: PRES REPLY TO SEN MCCAIN RE ADAMS VISIT TO US

REQUIRED ACTION: FOR DISPATCH

DUE DATE: 13 MAY 96

COMMENT:

FOR

Thomas M. Ham

JOHN W. FICKLIN

NSC RECORDS MANAGEMENT OFFICE