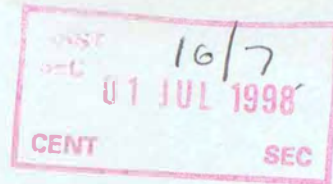


FROM: DAVID BROOKER
HEAD OF IPL DIVISION
1 JULY 1998



See distribution list below

Mrs Brown

VITAL VOICES - WOMEN IN DEMOCRACY

Your note of 30 June reminded me that, when I saw Blair Hall last Friday, I asked him about the latest state of play on a possible visit to Northern Ireland by President Clinton. The message was essentially the same as before; we should expect a visit before the year was out. I mentioned that the launch of the Assembly in early 1999 would be another logical moment for a piece of Presidential theatre but the Americans still seem strongly attracted to a visit later this year. Blair reiterated that if the pieces fell into place for a Presidential bilateral with President Yeltsin, a short visit to Northern Ireland sooner rather than later would still be very much on the cards. He speculated that late August/early September might still be a possibility - though emphasised that this was purely theoretical at this stage. But, as Janet McIver's letter brings out, he was emphatic that the First Lady would want to visit Northern Ireland for the Vital Voices Conference anyway.

David Brooker

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