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FROM: C G MACCABE
POLITICAL AFFAIRS DIVISION
26 July 1994

cc PS/Michael Ancram (DENI, B&L)	- B
PS/PUS (B&L)	- B
PS/Mr Fell	- B
Mr Thomas	- B
Mr Bell	- B
Mr Williams	- B
Mr Watkins	- B
Mr Daniell	- B
Mr Brooker	- B
Mrs Brown	- B
Ms Siberry	- B
Mr Archer, RID	- B
HMA, Dublin	- B

PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B

CONVERSATION WITH THE US CONSUL GENERAL

The US Consul General, Val Martinez, invited me to lunch today. When I arrived he explained that he wanted to show me, in confidence, a copy of the 'line to take' he had recommended to Washington following Sinn Fein's weekend conference. (He has since confirmed it has been approved by the White House, and a copy is attached at Annex A.) He said we should look at it as falling somewhere mid-way between the views expressed by the Taoiseach - which were too conciliatory - and Ken Maginnis - which were too pugnacious. He also gave me the copy of Senator Kennedy's statement attached at Annex B. He said in his personal opinion Sinn Fein's rejection of the Joint Declaration, and their refusal to call for a PIRA ceasefire, would do them a lot of harm amongst all but their most die-hard supporters in the United States; and it also placed John Hume in a very exposed position vis a vis the other senior members of his Party.

2. Apparently Congressman Bruce Morrison was in Belfast last week and had met senior members of Sinn Fein. In a subsequent conversation with Mr Martinez he had argued that the US Government

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should enter into early dialogue with Sinn Fein regardless of the outcome of the special conference. Martinez had rejected this proposition out of hand, and had been supported by Ambassador Crowe in doing so. His consistent advice to Washington was that the US Administration must not get out of step with either the Irish or British Government and that any dialogue with Sinn Fein in advance of a permanent cessation of violence would seriously damage the prospect of a satisfactory outcome to the political development process. He added, however, that had Sinn Fein played their cards differently and declared an open-ended, or even three months, ceasefire they would have put all three Governments under intense pressure to make some sort of reciprocal gesture. He said an initiative on these lines during the next few days was still possible as Sinn Fein had been much taken aback by the political and media reaction to the outcome of their conference. (Comment: this corroborates information received from several of our press contacts.)

3. Two other snippets of our conversation are worth recording. First, Mr Martinez said that with his encouragement, Eddie McGrady had written to President Clinton inviting him to visit Downpatrick next year. It seems there is a 50/50 chance of a Presidential visit to the Republic during the summer and this might just be linked with a brief sortie into the North. Martinez said final decisions were some way off but he had a lot of time for McGrady and thought he deserved some Presidential patronage more than most.

4. Secondly, he said that with the full support of Ambassador Crowe he was lobbying the White House to have Jim Molyneaux included on the guest list for next year's Presidential dinner on St Patrick's Day. He thought this would be a nice, timely balance to John Hume's customary invitation. I said I thought it was an excellent idea and wished him luck.

[signed CGM]

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ANNEX A

NORTHERN IRELAND
SINN FEIN RESPONSE TO DOWNING STREET DECLARATION

Q: What does the U.S. Government think of the July 24 Sinn Fein statement on the Downing Street Declaration and the Anglo-Irish peace process?

A: - WE ARE DISAPPOINTED, AS ARE IRISH AND BRITISH OFFICIALS, THAT SINN FEIN DID NOT FULLY ACCEPT THE DOWNING STREET DECLARATION NOR UNEQUIVOCALLY RENOUNCE VIOLENCE.

- AS IRISH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DICK SPRING REAFFIRMED, SINN FEIN AND THE IRA "MUST RENOUNCE VIOLENCE AND THEN AND ONLY THEN CAN THEY TAKE PART IN ANY DISCUSSION OR DIALOGUE WITH EITHER GOVERNMENT."

- WE CONTINUE TO URGE SINN FEIN AND THE IRA TO UNEQUIVOCALLY RENOUNCE VIOLENCE AND JOIN THE PEACE PROCESS. AS WE HAVE SAID BEFORE, THE MEASURE OF SINN FEIN'S COMMITMENT TO PEACE IS DEEDS, NOT WORDS.

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ANNEX B

Senator Kennedy's Statement
on the Sinn Fein Response to the Joint Declaration

The Sinn Fein response is extremely disappointing. The Joint Declaration is fair to all sides in Northern Ireland and Sinn Fein should have joined it long ago. A unique opportunity for peace is underway and the process should continue. There is no justification for the IRA or any other extremist group to continue violence and undermine the peace process.

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