

CONFIDENTIAL

230/93.

FROM: JONATHAN STEPHENS  
SIL/TPU  
5 OCTOBER 1994

ENTERED 24 NOV 1994

UNDER/ 272/110  
SEC  
-6 OCT 1994  
CENT SEC

- cc: PS/Michael Ancram (L&B) - B
- PS/PUS (L&B) - B
- Mr Fell B
- Mr Thomas - B
- Mr Bell - B
- Mr Watkins - B
- Mr Brooker - B
- Mr Maccabe - B
- Mr Margetts - B
- Mr Archer, RID - B

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

POSSIBLE MEETING WITH SIR ROBIN RENWICK

*long time*  
*I've asked SIL to add*  
*the US package to the*  
*agenda.*  
*JSW*  
*b.cw*

I gather there is a possibility, if time can be found in the course of tomorrow, that Sir Robin Renwick may call on the Secretary of State. Even a short meeting would, I am sure, be extremely valuable to the Ambassador and could cover three main areas:

- the Secretary of State's own account of where we currently stand;
- the Ambassador's view of US opinion generally and the thinking in the Administration in particular;
- likely developments over the coming months.

2. The last of these would be particularly valuable. US interest in Northern Ireland, and the corresponding interest of Northern Irish and Irish politicians in the US, is likely to continue over the coming months, albeit perhaps at a rather less frenetic level than recently. There is talk, for example, of a further Adams' visit to the US in November.

CONFIDENTIAL

SOFS/23844

CONFIDENTIAL

Over this period it will be even more important than usual for the Embassy to keep up to speed with current Government policy. For example, we have not approached the current Adams' visit quite the same way we did his February visit, nor would we necessarily want to give a possible November visit the same treatment as the current visit merited. With the Government possibly moving towards a working assumption on permanence, which in turn leads towards preliminary exploratory dialogue which itself opens the way to Sinn Fein's entry into political talks, it will be important that the Embassy not only keeps up to speed with policy developments, but is also able to present them to the Administration as part of a considered overall strategy ultimately intended to draw Sinn Fein into the democratic process. If the Secretary of State were able to outline this, it would be valuable briefing for the Ambassador.

4. It would also be interesting to hear Sir Robin's view of the effects of our efforts over the most recent Adams visit. A continuing preoccupation with being seen to counter Adams' visits to the US, and to attempt to deny him access once there, inevitably puts us in an essentially defensive posture, and may be using up limited political credibility which could otherwise be used in promoting a more positive message. If there really is to be another Adams visit this year, possibly even with the carrot of a meeting with the top of the Administration, it may be time to treat his visits with more lofty disdain.

4. If the Secretary of State could find the time - or if that is impossible, perhaps PUS or Mr Thomas - this would be a valuable opportunity to take the Ambassador through some of these issues.

SIGNED

JONATHAN STEPHENS  
Security and International Division  
OAB Ext 6587

CONFIDENTIAL

SOFS/23844