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FROM: M T H MAXWELL
AS CENT SEC
DATE: 13 OCTOBER 1995

cc PS/PUS (L) - B
PS/Sir David Fell - B
Mr Thomas - B
Mr Loughran
Mr Elliott
Mr Carvill
Mr Williams - B
Mr Bell - B
Mr Wood (B&L) - B
Mr Maccabe - B
Mr Stephens - B
Mr Gamble, DED
Mr Todd, IFI
Ms Checksfield - B
Mr McKervill - B
Miss Steele - B
Mr Woods - B
Mr Gibbons - B
Mr Westmacott, Washington
Mr Alexander, NIB

MR WATKINS - B

VISIT BY PRESIDENT CLINTON TO THE UK : 28 NOVEMBER-1 DECEMBER 1995

1. We held a further VCR meeting with the FCO (Protocol Section) this morning to discuss arrangements for the forthcoming visit by President Clinton to the UK.
2. The FCO advised that, despite assurances from the US Embassy in London, they had received no further information regarding the visit. Tony Lake would be meeting the Foreign Secretary (and Michael Ancram) in London next week, and it is possible that he may be able to shed some light on the President's likely itinerary. The date for the reconnaissance team visit is still not certain. At one stage the Americans had proposed putting the visit back to the week beginning 30 October, but they now seem to be back to the week beginning 23 October. We do not know, however, which days of the week they will be in Northern Ireland.

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3. The reconnaissance party will total about 40. Not all of them will be "on the bus". For example, the President's doctor will visit hospital facilities at the various locations.
4. I have made a plea to FCO that we really need to pin the Americans down on the programme as soon as possible, although having had experience of Washington I know that this is extremely difficult.
5. I will also be feeding into the Americans, via FCO, some possible alternative visits to balance the Londonderry leg (possibly an integrated school) and the Belfast legs. In the latter context I would be grateful if you could let me have any suggestions. At present the Belfast leg looks as follows:
 - Mackies
 - Peaceline (Cupar Way)
 - Belfast City Hall (lights)
 - Europa (Reception).
6. Mr Woods has been liaising with the FCO Information Service and has also been seeking to gather information about the President's schedule from the US Embassy, again without success. Mr Woods has drawn attention to the disadvantages in using Mackies as a venue for the major speech. We will continue to press the Americans on this, and to offer alternative venues.
7. FCO also advised us that we needed to stand up to the Americans in terms of the security arrangements for the visit, otherwise they will simply take over.
8. I advised FCO that we now have a separate DED/IDB working group to look after the economic aspects of the visit.
9. I am sorry that we do not have firmer details of the President's schedule. It is frustrating to work with the Americans, but this is their classic Washington-type style. We will, however,

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continue to make whatever preparations we can at this stage for his visit.

[Signed: RC pp]

M T H MAXWELL
CENTRAL SECRETARIAT

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