

118/94

mm 514/4
ASST
SEC 23 APR 1994
CENT SEC

FROM: DAVID COLEMAN
SECURITY AND INTERNATIONAL DIVISION
22 APRIL 1994

cc: PS/Sir John Wheeler (L&B)	- B
PS/Michael Ancram (L, B& DENI)	- B/M
PS/PUS (L&B)	- B
PS/Mr Fell (L&B)	- B
Mr Legge	- B
Mr Thomas	- B
Mr Williams	- B
Mr Steele	- B
Mr Bell	- B
Mr Maccabe	- B
Mr Maxwell	- B
Mr Brooker	- B

1. MR MARGETTS (JM 22.4.94)
2. MR DANIELL (as amended. Sgd JAD. 22/4/94)
3. PS/SECRETARY OF STATE (L&B) - B

ms *Ken*

MINISTER'S CASE: SOS/00270/94: BALLYMENA BOROUGH COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION REGARDING MR ADAMS' VISIT TO THE USA

Mr Rankin, Town Clerk and Chief Executive of the Ballymena Borough Council, wrote to the Secretary of State on 12 April concerning a resolution recently adopted by the Council expressing abhorrence at President Clinton's decision to grant Mr Adams a visa to visit the United States. Mr Rankin also enclosed a copy of a letter he wrote to President Clinton on 7 April for the Secretary of State's information; he has also, we understand, written in similar terms to the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary.

2. I attach a draft reply for the Secretary of State's consideration; it is intended, that this reply should be a consolidated reply on behalf of HMG to all 3 letters sent by Ballymena Borough Council. We have informed No.10 and the FCO accordingly.

SIGNED

DAVID COLEMAN
Security and International Division
OAB Ext 6511

RD/TYP/635

FILE NUMBER:

DRAFT LETTER

ADDRESSEE'S REFERENCE:

To	Enclosures	
MG Rankin Esq MIEH Town Clerk and Chief Executive Council Offices "Ardeevin" 80 Galgorm Road Ballymena Co Antrim BT42 LAB		
(Full Postal Address)		(Full Address, if necessary)

LETTER DRAFTED FOR SIGNATURE BY: PS/SECRETARY OF STATE
(Name of Signatory)

The Secretary of State has asked me to thank you for your letter of 12 April 1994 about your Council's resolution of 6 April on the decision to grant Mr Adams a visa to visit the United States. You wrote along similar lines to the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary; I should be grateful if you would regard this letter as being a consolidated reply on behalf of Her Majesty's Government.

The Secretary of State well understands the anger and frustration felt by many people on both sides of the Atlantic at the publicity surrounding Mr Adams' visit to the United States and his claim to be committed to 'peace', in the face of continuing IRA violence. What we all want to see is Mr Adams' words about peace being backed up by deeds, with he and his party taking up the challenge of the

Joint Declaration and renouncing violence unequivocally and for good.

The decision to allow Mr Adams into the United States was of course entirely a matter for the American Government. President Clinton, Vice President Gore, and other senior members of the Administration were not deceived by Mr Adams. The President and Vice President issued strong statements on 1 February in support of the Joint Declaration - and President Clinton made it clear that the Declaration was such a significant development that his campaign commitment to name a US "Peace Envoy" to Ireland had been overtaken. More recently President Clinton reiterated his support for the Joint Declaration during the Prime Minister's visit to the United States. On 1 March he stated that:

".....with regard to Northern Ireland I want to reaffirm the support of the United States for the Joint Declaration, for the process it envisions and for an end to the violence. I wish the Prime Minister and Prime Minister Reynolds well as they seek to carry this out".

Our Embassy staff in the United States will continue their strenuous efforts to counter propoganda from the Provisionals. There is evidence that they have been increasingly successful in recent years. Also, as you will have seen from recent press reports, the Secretary of State took the opportunity of using his recent visit to Canada and the United States to reinforce the

RD/TYP/635

message that terrorist violence has no part to play in a democratic society.

I hope that the members of Ballymena Borough Council find this reply helpful.

RD/TYP/635