

C O N F I D E N T I A L

FROM: PS/PUS  
20 JUNE 1995

ASST SEC 20 401/6  
21 JUN 1995  
CENT SEC

- cc. PS/Sir John Wheeler (L,B&DFP) - B
- PS/Michael Ancram (L,B&DENI) - B
- PS/Sir David Fell - B
- Mr Thomas - B
- Mr Bell - B
- Mr Watkins - B
- Mr Stephens o/r - B
- Ms Checksfield - B

UNDER SEC 851/6  
20 JUN 1995  
CENT SEC C

PS/SECRETARY OF STATE (L&B) - B

*Mr McA...*  
*20/6*

OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE UK BY PRESIDENT ROBINSON

I attach a minute from Donald Lamont which reports that the Foreign Secretary considers that we should aim for a "Guest of Government" visit by President Robinson in 1996, but that he would welcome our Secretary of State's view before going firm on that option.

2. I should be grateful if you would let me have any comments which the Secretary of State would like me to feed back to the FCO (PUS's own view is that a Guest of Government visit should be welcomed).

Signed:

D T MCILROY  
PRIVATE SECRETARY  
20 JUNE 1995

C O N F I D E N T I A L

CONFIDENTIAL

DESK IMMEDIATE

From: Donald A Lamont  
Republic of Ireland Dept

Date: 16 June 1995

cc: HMA Dublin

PS/PUS

OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE UK BY PRESIDENT ROBINSON

1. Following the Prince of Wales' highly successful visit to the Republic, we have been considering on this side of Horseguards' Parade how we should now upgrade the level of visits between the UK and Ireland. The Foreign Secretary's provisional conclusion is that we should aim for a Guest of Government visit by President Robinson in 1996. But he would welcome your Secretary of State's view before going firm on that option.

2. There are four slots for visits by Heads of State as Guest of Government in 1996, and I think there is little doubt that top priority would be allocated to President Robinson if we thought that an invitation for 1996 was appropriate. (There are no gaps for a State Visit by Mrs Robinson in that year.) I should welcome HMA Dublin's comment, but it seems to me better, from the Irish perspective, to avoid the second half of 1996, when they will be preoccupied by the Presidency of the European Union. That suggests a visit in the first half of next year.

4. There is, of course, always a lingering feeling that it is somehow short of first class treatment to be a Guest of the Government rather than of Her Majesty. Having accompanied a foreign Head of State on a Guest of Government visit to London, I am confident that we can avoid that feeling. Assuming that timing can be worked out successfully, The Queen would certainly wish to ensure that the President felt she was being given appropriate attention.

5. The Royal Visits Committee meets on 28 June. It would be very helpful to know Sir Patrick Mayhew's views on the matter and in particular whether he has any reservations about a Guest of Government visit for President Robinson in 1996 so that we may feed them into that meeting.

(SIGNED)

Donald A Lamont

CONFIDENTIAL

DL/RHB/4642