

cc Mr T McCusker, MBW
Mr S Corbett, CCRU
Mr G McKeown, DENI
Mr R Buchanan, NIO
Mr J Angus, DOE

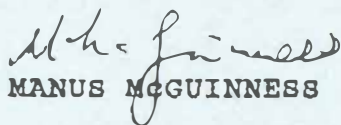
From: M McGuinness, European Division, DFP

Date: 14 February 1996

To: Mr W Gamble, T&EA
Mr R McMinnis, DED
Mr E Hayes, DOE
Mr P Sweeney, DOE
Mr D Harley, DHSS
Mr W Shannon, DANI

I attach for your information copies of an EC press release and a line to take, prepared by DFP, on the effect on the Peace Programme of the uncertainty surrounding the ceasefire.

I will update this line to take as soon as we have further information.


MANUS MCGUINNESS

PP-MMcGui-8770

EU SPECIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

Current Position

Defensive Line to Take

- Q. What effect will the uncertainty surrounding the ceasefire have on the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation?
- A. It is premature to speculate at this stage about the future of the Programme. However, the Regional Policy Commissioner, Monika Wulf-Mathies commented on 12 February 1996 that good progress had been made on the Programme at ground level and that it was important that the money was kept flowing to sustain it.

Fax to Jack Layberry

no. 0044 1232 526948

ME96 / 12.2

MIDDAY EXPRESS*News from the Spokesman's midday briefing.
Nouvelles du rendez-vous de midi du Porte-Parole***12 / 02 / 1996****Jacques Santer: "The Northern Ireland peace process must continue"**

In a statement published on Saturday, 10 February 1996, President Jacques Santer said: "Yesterday's bomb attack in London is an outrage but it must not be allowed to end the Northern Ireland peace process. Terrorism will not solve the conflict. Nobody could have expected negotiations to be easy, but they offer the only hope of a solution. The ceasefire has stopped the spiral of violence and aggression giving the people in Northern Ireland the chance to start rebuilding their lives and giving the European Commission the opportunity to contribute to the financing of much needed confidence building projects. During my visit in Northern Ireland, I have personally seen how much this meant to everyone. I therefore join all those who call for a continuation of the ceasefire and for a determined pursuance of a negotiated solution. Yesterday's explosion must not end the past seventeen months of hope."

*(more information: IP/96/135 - N.G. van der Pas - tel: 299.01.88 - fax: 299.19.70)***Monika Wulf-Mathies: peace package designed to cement reconciliation process**

Commenting on the bomb attack in London, Regional policy Commissioner Monika Wulf-Mathies showed herself shocked and surprised. "The situation in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland shows how much people on the ground desire peace and reconciliation. This is exactly the purpose of the 300 million ECU peace package of the European Union which is designed to cement the reconciliation process and to make it irreversible. Good progress has already been made at ground level and it is important that we keep the money flowing to further sustain it."

*(more information: H. Gerstbrein - tel: 296.69.41 - fax: 295.01.43)***Rwandan refugees: the Commission calls for the respect of human rights and international conventions**

The Commission last Friday expressed concern for the threatened closure of two refugee camps in Zaire, currently hosting some 250,000 Rwandan refugees. Emma Bonino, Commissioner for Humanitarian aid, appealed to the governments of Zaire and Rwanda to do their utmost to ensure that protection of human rights and respect of international conventions applying to repatriation of refugees be fully adhered to. She expressed her intention to follow the situation closely.

*(for more information: IP/96/134 - F. di Robilant - tel: 296.69.40 - fax: 296.42.84)***MIDDAY EXPRESS**