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cc/b/up
JS

Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Jk

16 June 1993

London SW1A 2AH

Dear Rodric,

**BILATERAL BETWEEN THE TAOISEACH AND THE PRIME MINISTER
ON 16 JUNE**

The Prime Minister will wish to be aware that difficulties have arisen over the planning of a visit to Northern Ireland on 18-19 June by President Robinson.

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland is very concerned that the Irish have arranged a visit for the President to a Community Centre in West Belfast on 18 June where guests will include prominent members of Sinn Fein. Gerry Adams is himself included in the invitation list and so are terrorists and persons suspected of supporting terrorism.

Our Ambassador spoke on instructions to Mr Murray, the Secretary to the Irish Government last night, making it clear that this element of visit would be unwelcome to HMG and that we would need to say so if it went ahead. (Speaking Note at Annex A). Mr Murray undertook to report the representation to his Ministers who were also concerned about the guest list. He wondered whether the guest list could be pruned. He encouraged the Ambassador to arrange for the Prime Minister to mention their concerns to the Taoiseach today. (The Ambassador's report on the call is at Annex B). News of the proposed visit to West Belfast is in today's Irish Press (Annex C).

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The Prime Minister may wish to make the following points:

- We would welcome a visit by the President to a Community Centre in Belfast on Friday.
- But the preparations for this particular two hour visit seem to have got into the wrong hands in Belfast. (We were not consulted about this by the Irish). Sinn Fein and terrorists and others suspected of supporting terrorism will be prominent. Gerry Adams would be there. Assume the Irish would share our concern about this. We would have to say publicly that we had advised the Irish Government against the visit.
- The consequences of going ahead would in our view be disastrous. One result would be to remove generally the goodwill that the President has built up.
- [If asked how best to handle this.] For the Irish Government to decide. Perhaps better to cut out the Friday programme entirely and make a later start to the visit and visit West Belfast later after proper planning.

I am copying this to Jonathan Stephens (Northern Ireland Office) and Melanie Leech (Cabinet Office).

I have not been able to show this letter to the Foreign Secretary. If he has any extra comments, I will telephone them through.

Yours ever,

(R J Sawers)
Private Secretary

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