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*File*

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1 December 1993

BY FAX

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cc: RL ←  
Go

*Dear Graham,*

**NORTHERN IRELAND: PRESIDENT CLINTON'S TELEPHONE CALL**

1. We spoke this morning about the report in the Irish Times that Clinton had called the Prime Minister last week at the request of the Irish Government.
2. The Irish Embassy here claim they are innocent. They admit to having spoken to Conor O'Clery, author of the piece, who they say was inspired by newspaper accounts of Clinton's 'phone conversation with Kravchuk to ask whether there had been a call to the Prime Minister. Our State Department and NSC contacts believe that Dermot Gallagher had at least some responsibility for the Irish Times version of events. Mike Parmly, Deputy Director of State's Northern European Bureau, who follows Northern Ireland affairs closely, added that there were also those in the White House who wished Clinton's intervention to be seen as more one-sided than it had been. There was a continuing argument between the State Department, who saw the US role as currently limited to lending support to the efforts of the two governments within the framework of the AIG, and the NSC Staff Director, Nancy Soderberg, who believed that Clinton should be seen in a greener light. Parmly was pleased that briefings this morning in both London and Washington had revealed - in virtually identical terms - the constructive and balanced nature of the President's call to the Prime Minister.
3. We spoke briefly about the possibility of Clinton making a further statement of support after the 3 December meeting. While it was important not to devalue the currency, State Department /were

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were ready to recommend this if we thought it would help. The "clarifications" of today's Irish Times piece - see the attached Reuters' report, just received - might themselves be seen as a further message of support from Clinton. However, if it turned out that there was something to shout about on Friday evening - or if problems had arisen and a nudge from Washington might help to keep the process on the rails - the Administration would, be ready to help. We agreed to stay in touch.

4. I asked whether the idea of a Presidential visit to Dublin was firming up. Parmly said that it was now virtually certain that a visit would be included in the President's June or July itinerary. The best bet was that it would be fitted in after Bonn, which would follow the President's visit to Rome for the G7 Summit.

*Yours truly,*

*PWC*

Peter Westmacott

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 out: 14:54 12-01

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