

Refer

REFERENCES

A : 8 December 1981 : Hansard Vol.14, Col.722

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS : 22 DECEMBER 1981

NOTES FOR SUPPLEMENTARIES : REVOCATION OF MR PAISLEY'S AMERICAN VISA

IS IT PROPER FOR AN ALLY TO REFUSE ENTRY TO AN ELECTED MEMBER OF THIS HOUSE?

1. The decision was a matter for the American Government, just as the question of a visa for anyone wishing to enter the United Kingdom is a matter for the British Government.

DID THE AMERICANS CONSULT HMG?

2. The decision was a matter for the American Government. Our Embassy and the State Department have naturally been in touch on all aspects of the visit. The State Department have been made aware that the Hon Member for Antrim North is a Member of this House and a Member of the European Parliament.

/WILL HMG PROTEST?



WILL HMG PROTEST?

3. It would not be proper for the British Government to seek to influence the American decision. I would not expect any other government to try to influence our decision on the issue of visas to anyone wishing to come to the United Kingdom.

UNITED STATES POLICY ON NORTHERN IRELAND - JUDGE CLARK'S
COMMENTS ON IRISH UNIFICATION IN A TV INTERVIEW

A 4. As I said in reply to a question from the Hon Member for Bebington and Ellesmere Port on the 8th of December, 'The future of Northern Ireland is a matter both for the people of Northern Ireland and for the United Kingdom Parliament.'. I should also make it perfectly clear that in his letter [to Dr FitzGerald], President Reagan said that he equally 'understood that the matter could not be solved in any way by the United States of America but only by those concerned.'

AMERICAN BAN ON THE SALE OF ARMS TO THE RUC

C 5. I understand that the RUC are satisfied with the range of weapons at their disposal, but of course requirements are reviewed from time to time.



WILL HMG PROTEST?

3. It would not be proper for the British Government to seek to influence the American decision. I would not expect any other government to try to influence our decision on the issue of visas to anyone wishing to come to the United Kingdom.

UNITED STATES POLICY ON NORTHERN IRELAND - JUDGE CLARK'S
COMMENTS ON IRISH UNIFICATION IN A TV INTERVIEW

A 4. As I said in reply to a question from the Hon Member for Bebington and Ellesmere Port on the 8th of December, 'The future of Northern Ireland is a matter both for the people of Northern Ireland and for the United Kingdom Parliament.'. I should also make it perfectly clear that in his letter [to Dr FitzGerald], President Reagan said that he equally 'understood that the matter could not be solved in any way by the United States of America but only by those concerned.'.

AMERICAN BAN ON THE SALE OF ARMS TO THE RUC

5. I understand that the RUC are satisfied with the range of weapons at their disposal, but of course requirements are reviewed from time to time.



BACKGROUND NOTE : REVOCATION OF MR PAISLEY'S AMERICAN VISA

1. The State Department announced yesterday:-

'Because of our grave concern about the divisive tone of Mr Paisley's actions and statements in recent weeks, the Department initiated a review about three weeks ago to determine whether anything Mr Paisley had said or done recently had made him ineligible for a visa under our laws. We have concluded that Mr Paisley's presence in the United States is prejudicial to the US public interest and his visa has been invalidated. This obviously means that he may not enter the United States.'

In addition to the reasons given in this statement, the State Department no doubt considered that to allow Mr Paisley in, only weeks after they had turned down Owen Carron, would have played into the hands of those who want Owen Carron to be issued with a visa and weakened the position of moderates in Congress.

2. When he was in London Judge Clark asked Mr Prior whether he thought Mr Paisley's visa should be revoked. Mr Prior replied that it was a matter for the American Government but that on balance he thought the Americans should not revoke the visa. Mr Paisley is not aware of this. When he called on the Lord Privy Seal on Thursday, 17 December, he was told that the State Department had not consulted the FCO.

/American Policy



- 2 -

American Policy on Northern Ireland

3. In an interview broadcast on Irish TV on 7 December Judge Clark referred to the prayer of all Americans for Irish unification. The American line since has been that their policy towards Northern Ireland is as stated in President Reagan's St Patrick's Day statement and his letter to Dr FitzGerald. A State Department spokesman said on 9 December 'The United States has no position on the question of Irish reunification.'

B

C