

## Selected Timeline

April 1992

Governor Clinton attends the Irish American Presidential Forum. He promises a U.S. peace envoy for Northern Ireland, a visa for Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams, and pledges support for the MacBride Principles on fair employment. Days later he won the New York primary.

October 1992

Just before the presidential election, Governor Clinton renews his peace envoy promise in a letter delivered to former Congressman Bruce Morrison.

November 1992

Governor Clinton is elected President of the United States.

January 1993

Members of the Irish Americans for Clinton-Gore lobby group meet with officials of the transition team in Little Rock before Clinton is sworn in as 42nd president. Nancy Soderberg leaves Senator Edward Kennedy's staff to join the National Security Council as a key adviser on Northern Ireland.

February 1993

President Clinton meets British Prime Minister John Major. The two sound a note of cautious optimism about prospects for peace in Northern Ireland.

March 1993

President Clinton walks back his envoy pledge during St. Patrick's Day celebrations in the White House on the advice of Irish Taoiseach Albert Reynolds, but also states that the option is still open.

May 1993

Gerry Adams applies for a visa to enter the United States but is denied by the State Department. The decision to deny was originated by Attorney General Janet Reno because of Adams' possible ties to terrorism.

September 1993

Former President Jimmy Carter and House Speaker Tom Foley are rumored to be candidates for the special envoy position.

February 1994

After the Downing Street Declaration by the British and Irish governments, President Clinton decides to allow Gerry Adams to enter the United States for two days to attend a conference of Irish-American political leaders in New York. The British government strongly disapproves.

October 1994

Gerry Adams visits Washington, D.C. after the IRA declares a cease-fire. He does not meet Clinton but gets a phone call from Vice President Al Gore.

December 1994

President Clinton appoints outgoing Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell as his special adviser on economic initiatives for Ireland. Mitchell is the de facto peace envoy promised by Candidate Clinton. Gerry Adams visits the White House for a meeting with Clinton administration officials, including National Security Adviser Anthony Lake.

March 1995

Clinton shakes hands with Adams at a St. Patrick's Day event hosted by House Speaker Newt Gingrich. No photograph is taken.

May 1995

President Clinton presides over three-day Washington trade conference on Ireland. He promises to visit Northern Ireland in the fall.

September 1995

David Trimble is elected leader of the Ulster Unionist Party. Under his leadership, the UUP becomes more actively engaged with the White House.

November 1995

President Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton travel to Northern Ireland after being honored by a state visit in London by Prime Minister John Major. Before returning to the United States, they also visit the Republic of Ireland.

January 1996

President Clinton endorses an arms decommissioning report by George Mitchell. The British government offers lukewarm support. The pace of peace negotiations slows down.

February 1996

The Provisional IRA explodes a massive bomb in London's Canary Wharf, ending their cease-fire. Protestant paramilitary groups follow suit. President Clinton signals his continued support for Gerry Adams by granting him another entry visa to enter the United States.

November 1996

President Clinton is elected to a second term.

May 1997

The British Labour Party is elected into power. On the basis of his own campaign pledges, peace negotiations pick up speed under new Prime Minister Tony Blair.

April 1998

The Good Friday Agreement is signed by all of the major political parties in Northern Ireland with the exception of the Protestant Democratic Unionist Party led by Ian Paisley. The British and Irish governments are also signatories.

May 1998

The Good Friday Agreement is approved by a popular referendum in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The campaign in favor is marked by a number of shootings attributed to disaffected members of Protestant and Catholic paramilitaries.

August 1998

A group calling itself the "Real IRA" explodes a bomb in Omagh, killing 29 people and seriously injuring scores of others.

September 1998

President Clinton and the First Lady travel to Northern Ireland to meet with the victims of the Omagh bombing. The President also speaks at a peace rally and meets with political leaders.

December 2000

The President, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, and their daughter, Chelsea, travel to Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.