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**Title:** Reports sent to the Secretary in the Department of External Affairs by Carmel B Heaney, Acting Consul General in the Consulate General of Ireland, Boston, Massachusetts, USA, concerning non-media reaction to the Northern Ireland situation in the USA, especially in relation to the detention of Joseph Cahill and support for the IRA [Irish Republican Army].

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## CONSULATE GENERAL OF IRELAND

437 BOYLSTON STREET

BOSTON, MASS. 02116

D. 1/13/6

8 September 1971

Secretary,  
Department of External Affairs

Non-Media Reaction to Northern Ireland Situation

1. The event which provoked the most reaction recently was the detention of Joseph Cahill and the threatened revocation of his visa. On Thursday, September 2, this office was inundated with telephone calls from people - most of them Irish-Americans. Without exception, the callers were sympathetic to Mr. Cahill and wanted to know what the Irish Government were doing to help him. They were informed, of course, that Mr. Cahill's U.S. visa was a matter for the American authorities and that while he was entitled to claim consular assistance to a limited degree, he had, in fact, not requested such and was represented by lawyers of his own choice. Many of the callers would not accept that non-intervention was a defensible attitude on the part of the Irish authorities. Several (and this may have indicated some concerted direction of the calls by an organised group) demanded a statement from the Consulate. Such a demand was made by Cornelius McEleney, an officer of the Donegal Men's Association. The interest in the subject of Mr. Cahill's detention was also reflected in the radio talk shows. Any of these shows to which I had an opportunity to listen, were receiving calls much like those received at the Consulate. The callers to the radio station, however, included some people who were open protagonists of the IRA.

2. I understand that a direct appeal for funds for the IRA was made in the course of "The Irish Hour" broadcast every evening on radio WUNR with Tommy Shields as master of ceremonies. The speaker was a Mr. McCarthy who owns a shoe store in Dorchester. The Irish hour is largely financed by Aer Lingus advertising and I have mentioned to a local representative of Irish Airlines how anomalous this situation is.

3. The undersigned noticed that a bar-restaurant in Cambridge called "The Plough and the Stars" displays prominently a printed appeal for funds for the IRA. The Plough and the Stars is owned and operated by a native of Galway and is frequented by the students who form the principal element in the population of Cambridge. It is highly unlikely that the Plough and the Stars is the only hostelry with Irish associations in which funds are solicited for the IRA.





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4. On September 7, all overseas jets bound for London from Boston were delayed because of a general bomb threat issued by a telephone caller who said he was a member of the "Irish Republican Army" of Boston". Earlier in the day, ten persons identifying themselves as IRA sympathizers chained themselves in the local BOAC ticket office. The group, who were led by Walter O'Regan, were arrested on charges of trespassing. Over the week-end Aer Lingus received a bomb threat from the UVF.

5. The Massachusetts House of Representatives has adopted "An Expression of Opinion of the House" as follows:-

"The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation setting apart the first Saturday in October as Social Justice for Ireland Day and recommending that Saturday be observed in appropriate manner by the public".

6. The sponsor of the bill is Representative William A. Carey who represents the district of West Roxbury, a middle class suburb with a high proportion of American-Irish. Representative Carey appears to know very little about Ireland and the action was described to me as a gimmick on his part. The people associated with the "Expression of Opinion" appear to be in the old IRA category or to belong to the more conservative class of Irish-Americans.

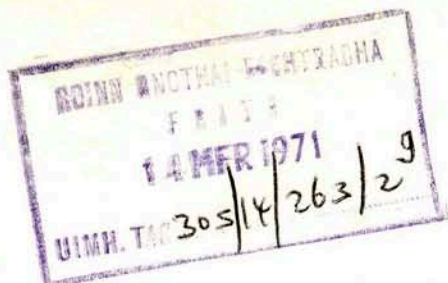
*Cornel B. Heaney*

Acting Consul General

cc: Ambassador, Washington, D. C.



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D.1/13/6 Non-Media reaction to Northern Ireland SituationS U M M A R Y

1. The event which provoked the most reaction recently was the detention by the U.S. authorities of Joseph Cahill. The Consulate General was inundated with telephone calls, many of which demanded action by the Irish authorities or, at least, a statement.
2. The local IRA used the occasion to broadcast an appeal for funds on the local radio "Irish Hour" which is, in fact, largely financed by Aer Lingus advertising.
3. At least one local bar/restaurant with Irish associations is openly soliciting funds for the IRA.
4. The local IRA issued a bomb threat against all overseas jets bound for London. Ten members of the local IRA chained themselves in the Boston office of BOAC and were eventually arrested.
5. The Massachusetts House of Representatives adopted a resolution declaring the first Saturday in October as "Social Justice for Ireland Day".

*Carmel B. Heaney*

8 September 1971