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CONFIDENTIAL

7 February 1976

Secretary  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
Dublin.

Attention: Anglo-Irish Section

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IRELAND FUND

On May 15, 1975 Mr. Tony O'Reilly arranged a dinner in the Waldorf Hotel to benefit the following Irish philanthropies, the Glencree Reconciliation Centre, St. Michael's House, the Central Remedial Clinic and the Royal College of Surgeons. The dinner was attended by representatives of these organisations and also Miss Mary Cosgrave, the Taoiseach's daughter. The Glencree Reconciliation Centre was represented by Mrs. Una O'Malley, Mrs. Judy Hayes and Miss Dorothy Tubridy. Admittance to the dinner was \$150 a head. The function was a great success and over \$100,000 nett was provided for the four groups. Prior to their departure for Ireland, Mr. O'Reilly had a meeting with the representatives of Glencree, St. Michael's House and the Central Remedial Clinic at which he proposed the formation of an "IRELAND FUND" which would act as a focal point for Americans who wished to help legitimate Irish charities and causes. Mr. O'Reilly proposed that committees be established both in Ireland and the U.S., the Irish committee to consist in the first instance of representatives of those groups and Mr. Jim Sherwin of RTE who was also in attendance. No decision was taken on that occasion but some months afterwards the agreement of all concerned was secured and a committee as envisaged earlier was established in Dublin. (Note: It is envisaged that Irish groups and institutions to be benefitted would after some time rotate out of the committee and be<sup>re</sup>placed by other groups so that the benefit of the Fund would be spread around. Accordingly, the Royal College of Surgeons which had received \$50,000, the lion's share of last year's function, is not to be included again for some time among the beneficiary groups).



Secretary  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
Dublin.

- 2-

A committee has also been established in the United States and it consists of the following:

Chairman: Mr. A.J. O'Reilly, President of Heinz.

President: Mr. Walter O'Connell, wealthy New York businessman also involved in the U.S./Ireland Council.

Other Members: Mr. Tom Gallagher, the Irish-born President of Doyle, Dane Bernbach Inc., the leading New York advertising agency.

Pat and Tim Rooney, two of the sons of Mr. Art Rooney, President of the Pittsburgh Steelers (winners of the U.S. Superbowl - the leading professional football competition - for the past two years) and themselves the Managing Directors of conglomerates of race courses and dog tracks.

Ethel Kennedy, widow of the late Robert Kennedy.

Edward C. Carey, nephew of Governor Carey and son of Edward Carey, President of North Eastern Petroleum.

Mr. John Mulcahy, prominent Irish-American businessman with interests in Ireland.

Rev. Theodore Hesbury, President of Notre Dame University.

Morris Murphy, President of a public relations firm in Pittsburgh who handles Mr. O'Reilly's public relations in the U.S. Mr. Murphy will be the Executive Secretary of the Ireland Fund.

Mr. John McHale, President of the Montreal Expos, a prominent professional baseball team.

Mr. Charles Bidwell, a Chicago businessman.

Secretary  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
Dublin.

7 February 1976

- 3-

Mr. John Reilly, a Washington attorney and formally Presidential Campaign Manager for the late Robert Kennedy.

Mr. Cormac O'Malley, a Wall Street lawyer and prominent in Irish-American activities.

Mr. Andrew Mulligan, Irish-born Director of the European Communities Information Service in the United States.

This group taken together command considerable influence in U.S. political, business and sporting circles.

The IRELAND FUND has been legally incorporated and has been granted tax exemption status for contributions from the U.S. Government's tax authority, the IRS.

I have been included as an informal consultant in three meetings of the board, two in November last year in New York and one a week ago in Washington. I have also written a draft for their explanatory folder which is to be published within two weeks - on the basis of non-attribution.

The IRELAND FUND has three objectives, Peace, Culture and Charity and it aims to provide an option to Americans principally Irish-Americans who would like to provide funds for legitimate Irish causes. The Fund's explanatory bulletin as drafted stresses the damage that violence is doing to progress in Ireland and invites Americans to help the people of Ireland to "live rather than die" for their country.

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The organisers for the Fund have been in touch with Senator Edward Kennedy and have invited him to be their guest of honour at the main 1976 function which is to take place in the Waldorf in New York on May 26 this year. Senator Kennedy has not yet indicated his decision. Should he be unable to attend they are considering approaching either Mr. George Meaney, the President of the large body of U.S. trade union groups, the AFL-CIO (this would be useful from our point of view as Mr. Meaney would be publicly associated with a group who oppose violence in Ireland, while two members of the AFL-CIO National Executive, Gleason and Guinan, have been helpful to NORAID and the Irish National Caucus) or Mr. Daniel P. Moynihan, U.S. Permanent Representative at the United Nations, whose resignation from that position was recently accepted by President Ford.

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Secretary  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
Dublin.

7 February 1976

- 4 -

I have suggested that the IRELAND FUND should not limit its activities to annual banquets but should consider maintaining a continuing programme of advertising particularly in the Irish-American media which would offer an alternative to the Irish Northern Aid Committee to Irish-Americans who want to do something positive about Northern Ireland.

I have made the same suggestion to Ireland's Children, a group who are collecting funds to help children in Northern Ireland on whom I have reported separately. I understand that my suggestion is acceptable

The IRELAND FUND proposes to hold its 1977 dinner in Chicago where they would honour Mayor Daley. This would again be useful from our point of view as it would help identify Mayor Daley with those who oppose the use of violence in Northern Ireland.

(The Department is aware that he has been helpful in the past in deflecting funds from groups who favour the use of violence).

In anticipation of that event Mr. Charles Bidwell, a member of the board, proposes to host a preparatory dinner for some fifty persons during this year in Chicago.

The address of the IRELAND FUND is c/o Mr. Morris Murphy, 2771 Beechwood Boulevard, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15217.

  
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M.J. Lillis

c.c. Ambassador, Washington, D.C.  
Consuls General New York, Chicago, Boston and San Francisco.  
Mr. Gearoid O Broin, Information Section, Dublin.