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Mr Swift  
Mr. Siew

This cov. relates  
to the last inter-  
-Parliamentary football  
match.

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF  
THE IRISH EMBASSY

6/12/78

~~M. D. ...~~

Frank  
Either you asked  
me.

9/23

17 Grosvenor Place,  
London, SW1X. 7HR.

From: MICHAEL O'HALLORAN M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

*Handwritten initials and date:*  
MH  
13/6/78

13 June 1978

H.E. Mr Paul J.G. Keating,  
Irish Ambassador,  
17 Grosvenor Place,  
London, S.W.1.

Dear Mr Keating,

The members of the House of Commons football team have asked me to convey to you their appreciation of the welcome they received at your Embassy on Saturday evening.

I would like to thank you personally for your very kind reception of the team and of the other guests from Islington I brought along. We are all most appreciative.

With best wishes and thank you again.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Michael O'Halloran'.

MICHAEL O'HALLORAN

Note

Following are the names of the Oireachtas group travelling to London this evening:

Senators Trevor West; Michael Lanigan; and Michael Kitt ✓

Deputies Seán Calleary (FF);

John Donnellan (FG);

Lorcan Allen (FF);

Enda Kenny (FG);

Bertie Ahern (FF);

Liam Lawlor (FF);

Liam Aylward (FF);

Michael Smith (FF);

Michael Lipper (Indept);

Barry Coogan (FF); ✓

William Kenneally (FF) and Mrs. Kenneally; ✓

Seán Moore (FF); ✓

Martin MacMahon (Principal Clerk in the Dáil) and Mrs. MacMahon. ✓

Peadar Lawless (Head Usher). ✓

h  
9 June 1978

BRUCE GEORGE, M.P. WALSALL SOUTH



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

5 June 78

ANGLO-IRISH PARLIAMENTARY FOOTBALL MATCH

On Saturday 10th June the Westminster Wanderers, Britain's Parliamentary football team will <sup>play</sup> host in a charity match to a side from the Republic of Ireland's Parliament, the Dáil. This will mark the 3rd international this year for the British team (having already defeated the West German Parliament 2-1 and the Council of Europe 6-0), and will be played at the Islington Astro Turf, Market Road, Islington with kickoff at 4.00 PM. Proceeds from the sale of a souvenir programme will go to a charity organised by the Mayor of Islington.

Bruce George, M.P. for Walsall South, captain and goal keeper for the British team and match organiser said "This visit by members of the Dáil is part of the ever improving relations between Ireland and the UK. We look forward to a good match and a good visit all 'round. "

Saturday's game <sup>will be</sup> preceded by a tour of Parliament for the visiting MPs, discussions with members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the House of Commons Anglo-Irish Group, and a meeting and official Government reception at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The game will be followed by receptions kindly arranged by the Mayor of Islington and the Irish Embassy.

In addition to Bruce George the British side includes Robert Bradford, Ivan Lawrence and Kenneth Clarke from the House of Commons, Viscount Craigavon of the House of Lords and Dr. Bernard Donoughue, Prime Minister Callaghan's senior policy adviser. The Irish will be led by Senator Trevor West, and his team includes Senator Michael Danigan, an Irish sprint champion, Deputy John Donnellan who captained a team to the All-Ireland Gaelic Football Championship, and Deputy Michael Lipper, a famous goal-scoring centreforward in League of Ireland football.

For further information contact match organiser Bruce George, M.P. on 01-219-4049.

To all participants in Soccer Match, London, June 1978

In regard to the soccer match against the House of Commons on Saturday, 10th June 1978, attached are two letters from Dr. B. Donoghue's Office, 10 Downing Street, London, setting out the provisional arrangements for the trip and information regarding the game.

Aer Lingus have now agreed to provide an all-in trip for £48.00, i.e. air fare plus accommodation in the Tara Hotel, London, for Friday and Saturday, 9th and 10th June. This amount should be paid to the Irish Parliamentary Association before the departure date.

The following flights have been booked:

Friday 9th June	Dublin	19.00	EI 174
	London	20.05	
Sunday 11th June	London	12.50	EI 159
	Dublin	13.55	

Check-in at airport will be one (1) hour before flight departure.

Should these flights not be suitable please contact the Inter-Parliamentary Section in Leinster House (Extensions 416, 285 or direct line 767706) so that alternative flights may be arranged.

For players white shorts, socks and appropriate footwear (see B. D. of letter) must be provided by each player. A complete set of green jerseys has been obtained by the team manager.

In regard to Saturday evening the Irish Embassy have kindly agreed to host a function (meal etc.) for the two teams.

Yours sincerely

Senator Trevor West

17 Grosvenor Place  
London SW1X 7HR

21 May 1978

Dear Hugh

I wrote to you on 10th May about plans for a football match between an Oireachtas team and a Westminster team in which Senator Trevor West <sup>at</sup> your end and Dr Bernard Donoghue at this end have been the prime movers.

A match is now planned to take place here on Saturday, 10th June. Senator West was in touch with me this morning and the provisional Oireachtas selection is, it appears, as follows:

Senators West and Lanigan;

Deputies Calleary, Donnellan, Allen, Kenny, B. Ahern, 12

L. Laylor, Aylward, Smith and Lipper.

Martin McMahon, Principal Clerk in the Dáil, will be acting as "manager". I gather from Senator West that there may be some additional Leinster House participation, playing or non-playing, and the total group from Ireland may be around 20 or so.

The match is due to be played at Islington Borough pitch on the afternoon of the 10th and the Mayor of Islington has invited both teams to a reception at Islington Town Hall, 5.00-7.30 p.m., that evening. The Ambassador plans to invite both teams to a buffet supper at the Embassy later in the evening and the FCO were in touch with me this afternoon to say that Frank Judd would like to attend the Embassy reception if he can free himself from constituency commitments. The British side are giving a lunch for the teams on Saturday probably at the House of Commons.

Bruce George, Labour MP for Walsall South, is handling arrangements for the Westminster selection with Dr Bernard Donoghue.

Yours sincerely

*T*  
Minister Plenipotentiary

Mr Hugh Swift  
Anglo-Irish Section  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
Dublin 2

Keating

nr O'Connell

to see

3/15

NOTE

Senator Trevor West phoned me this morning about arrangements for a football match in London on Saturday, 10th June between an Oireachtas team and a British Parliamentary team.

The Dáil/Seanad party will arrive in London late on Friday evening, 9th June, staying at the Tara Hotel.

On Saturday morning there will be a tour of Parliament and a discussion with members of the Anglo/Irish Parliamentary Group. A lunch will be given by the British side either at the House of Commons or 10 Downing Street. The match will be played at Islington Borough pitch at 3.00 p.m. or 4.00 p.m. The Mayor of Islington will give a reception for the teams at about 6.00 p.m. at Islington Town Hall. Senator West wondered if the Ambassador might find it possible to host a buffet-reception for both teams later that evening around 8.00 or 8.30 p.m. The Irish team will be as follows:

- Senators West, Lanigan and Aylward;
- Deputies Callery, Donellan, Allen, Kenny, Ahern, Lawlor, Smith and Lipper.

Martin McMahon will act as "manager". Senator West said that there would likely be some five or six additional people from Leinster House, TDs or others, accompanying the group.

The two British organisers are Bruce George, Labour MP for Walsall South and Dr Bernard Donoghue, Senior Policy Adviser to the Prime Minister.

J. Campbell  
26th May 1978





IRISH EMBASSY, LONDON.

17, GROSVENOR PLACE,  
S.W.1.

Telephone: 01-235 2171

Telex: 916104

10 May 1978

Dear Hugh

I enclose a note to me from Michael Brazil of the Embassy about plans for a football match between TDs and MPs of which the Department may wish to be aware.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "John H.F. Campbell", is written above the typed name.

John H.F. Campbell  
Minister Plenipotentiary

Mr Hugh Swift  
Anglo-Irish Section  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
Dublin 2

P.S. Also enclosed is a further note of today's date from Mr Brazil advising that the match may take place here on the week-end 10/11 June. According to Brazil, Bernard Donoghue has been informed by Sen. Herbert Keefe the Taoiseach is aware of the plans. T

Mr Campbell

Over the past two years, a team called Westminster Wanderers composed of British M.P's. and members of the House of Lords have played football matches in London against the Belgian and German Parliaments. The British M.P's. play charity matches against Showbiz XI's up and down this country and when the Belgian game was mooted, they asked the organiser of the Showbiz XI, whom I know for years, to recommend a fully-qualified neutral referee for the game. My name was given and I duly refereed the game. When the German game was arranged, I was again asked to officiate which I did.

Now, Senator Trevor West has approached Dr Bernard Donoughue, Policy Advisor to the P.M. suggesting matches on a home and away basis between Dail Eireann and Westminster. Dr Donoughue informed me of this proposal and again asked me to referee should the matches come off. I say "should" as there are financial difficulties to be overcome. Both parties are now going to solicit various sources for sponsorship. If they succeed, the tentative arrangements are that Dail Eireann comes to London sometime in June and Westminster travel to Dublin in September, where Johnny Giles has offered facilities to stage the game.

If direct discussions between Senator West and Dr Donoughue produce results i.e. satisfactory sponsorship (and of course there is no guarantee that this will be forthcoming in which case the proposed arrangements will collapse), the actual arrangements will be made by Bruce George M.P., captain and organiser of the Westminster team. Dr Donoughue is involved in the discussions at this stage because of his friendship with Senator West who is pushing the idea very enthusiastically.

My "neutrality" in a match involving Dail Eireann could possibly be queried but the Westminster Wanderers, who have experienced incompetent or over-officious referees, like my style of refereeing which involves correct interpretation of the laws plus the blind eye when the situation warrants it.

M. J. Brazil 4 May 1978.