

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

IRELAND



Reference Code:	2008/148/728
Creation Date(s):	12 August 1978
Extent and medium:	1 page
Creator(s):	Department of the Taoiseach
Access Conditions:	Open
Copyright:	National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

Note of meeting between the Taoiseach and Senator Edward Kennedy
the Irish Embassy to the Holy See, Rome, on Saturday,
12th August, 1978

Senator Kennedy called at his own request in the afternoon and we had a discussion mainly on the North of Ireland for about thirty minutes. I told him about the current position on which he was probably well briefed any way. I indicated that little change had taken place since my meeting with him in Washington at the end of May. There was still uncertainty about the date of the British Election and if the Tories succeeded and approached the Northern Ireland problem along the lines of some of their recent statements it would concern us. It was believed that on this side of the Atlantic that the recent Thorpe incident could reduce the Liberal vote and that traditionally this would benefit the Tories and might swing the election marginally in their favour. He asked me about the economic situation in the North and I said it was still the area of highest unemployment in Europe but that recently there were a couple of new American industrial proposals (I referred specifically to the De Lorean and to G.M. Seat Belts) for which we had been negotiating. I said that it appeared that they were able to top the best offers we could make. Generally speaking I said that our economy was moving much better than that of Britain and I also gave him the outline of recent EEC happenings in particular the proposals to establish a new European monetary system.

I referred to my meeting earlier that day with Governor Carey and that I had dis-abused him about what he said in connection with the AOH and the Irish Government in Shannon on his way to Rome. He mentioned the Biaggi campaign at this stage and he said that gradually they were "lopping off" (that I think was his phrase) members of congress who had aligned themselves with Biaggi. Come next autumn he thought there would be a much bigger group than the four (Tip O'Neill, Senator Moynihan, Governor Carey and himself) who supported the Government line on the North. When he was leaving he suggested that we continue to keep in touch.