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CUMANN PARLAIMINTEACH NA hÉIREANN
IRISH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

TEACH LAIGHEAN
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BAILE ATHA CLIATH
DUBLIN

Irish-United States Parliamentary Group

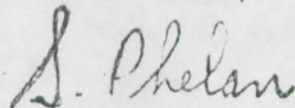
To each Member
Chun gach Comhalta

A Chara

I am directed by the Chairman, Dr. John O'Connell T.D., to inform you that the inaugural general meeting of the above group will be held in Room 114, Leinster House on Wednesday 3rd November 1982, at 4.30pm.

The business to be transacted is set out below.

Mise le meas,



A/S Runai

21 Deireadh Fomhair 1982

Agenda

1. Approval of draft constitution of Group
2. Any other business

Enclosures

1. Memorandum on the formation of the Irish-United States Parliamentary Group.
2. Membership lists of the "Friends"
3. Charter of "Friends of Ireland" Group.
4. Copy of Draft Constitution of Irish-American Parliamentary Group
5. Copy of Report by Ceann Comhairle to Executive Committee on visit by Group from "Friends of Ireland" 29 May - 2 June 1982

Memorandum on Formation of
Irish-United States Parliamentary Group

Following an invitation received by the Ceann Comhairle from the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Mr. Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., to establish an ongoing informal relationship between the "Friends of Ireland" organisation in the Congress of the United States and members of the Houses of the Oireachtas, the AGM of An Cumann last December instructed the incoming Executive Committee to adopt such a course. The Executive Committee at its first meeting, following the General Election, on 15 July 1982 formed the Irish-United States Parliamentary Group. The Executive Committee appointed a Committee to control the affairs of the Group consisting of the following members :

Ceann Comhairle, Chairman
Cathaoirleach, Vice-Chairman
Deputy D. Andrews
Deputy D. Lyons
Deputy G. L'Estrange
Senator C. McDonald
Senator M. Ferris

The Executive Committee also decided to invite membership from members of both Houses of the Oireachtas. Membership to date is as follows:

Dail Eireann
126

Seanad Eireann
40

The Executive Committee also adopted a draft Constitution (copy enclosed) for submission to the inaugural meeting of the Group for approval. Members will have an opportunity at this meeting to consider the question of the payment of an annual membership subscription.

The "Friends of Ireland" Group do not have a formal organisational structure as such. However, the following members may be regarded as the de facto committee :

Representative Thomas Foley
Representative Charles Dougherty
Representative James Shannon
Senator Christopher Dodd

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr. Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., and Senator Edward Kennedy have been prominent in the establishment of the "Friends of Ireland" and take a close personal interest in the activities of the Group. Membership lists for the "Friends" Group are enclosed together with a copy of its charter.

A representative group from the "Friends of Ireland" visited Ireland from 29 May to 2 June 1982 in response to an invitation which the Ceann Comhairle sent to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr. Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. A copy of the Report which the Ceann Comhairle made to the Executive Committee on this visit is also enclosed.

Draft

Irish-United States Parliamentary Group

Constitution

1. The Irish-United States Parliamentary Group is formed under the auspices of Cumann Parlaiminteach na hEireann (Irish Parliamentary Association) in response to the setting up of the Friends of Ireland organisation in the Congress of the United States.
2. The object of the Group is to strengthen the bonds of friendship and understanding between Ireland and the United States by promoting visits and personal contacts between the legislators of both countries. An important concern of the Group in its contacts with the Friends of Ireland will be to assist in efforts to bring about a lasting settlement to the tragic conflict in Northern Ireland. The Group share the belief of the Friends Group that the only way to secure a lasting peace is to end the division of the Irish people. With the Friends Group the Irish-United States Parliamentary Group share the fundamental goal of Irish unity to be achieved by agreement, by peaceful means and with full safeguards for the rights and legitimate aspirations of both sections of the community.
3. Membership of the Group is open to Members of each House of the Oireachtas.
4. The affairs of the Group shall be under the control of a Committee appointed for the purpose by the Executive Committee of Cumann Parlaiminteach na hEireann. The Committee shall consist of the Ceann Comhairle and the Cathaoirleach who shall be, respectively, ex officio Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee, a Secretary and four other members. The quorum of the Committee shall be four.
5. The Executive Committee of Cumann Parlaiminteach na hEireann shall be kept informed from time to time of the activities of the Group.

6. An Annual General Meeting of the Group shall be held in the first quarter of each year. A Special General Meeting may be called at any time by the Chairman of the Group or on a requisition to him signed by not less than ten members and setting out the business for which the meeting is desired. On receipt of such a requisition, the Chairman shall arrange to call a meeting at the earliest practical date. The quorum at a General Meeting shall be ten. For any General Meeting at least three days notice must be given to all members.

7. This Constitution shall not be amended or altered in any detail save with the approval of the majority of the members of the Group present and voting at an Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting. Notice of proposed amendments to the Constitution must be received by the Chairman at least seven days before the meeting at which they are to be considered and be included in the agenda to be circulated to members.

July 1982.