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ROINN AN TAOISIGH

Uimhir.....

To: Mr. D. Nally, Secretary to the Government
From: B. McCarthy

Re: Taoiseach's meeting with AFL-CIO Delegation

Monday 4 July, 1983

1. The delegation will comprise Mr. Thomas Donahue, Secretary-Treasurer of the Organisation, Mr. James Hatfield and Mr. John Sweeney. A biographical note on these are attached. They will be accompanied by Mr. Terry Carlin, Northern Ireland Officer of ICTU. Background papers on contacts with AFL-CIO through our Washington Embassy are also attached. The main points which the Taoiseach might bear in mind are:-

Taoiseach
54
117
So for the lunch attendance - at 1 p.m. for 1.15 p.m. on

Monday in your living room in Govt. buildings is yourself, Torville and Minister for Foreign Affairs + the ~~three~~ three AFL/CIO delegates)

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117

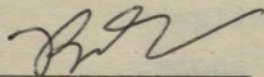
(1) In recent years relations between the Government and those American Unions interested in Irish affairs have improved. We are seeking to extend our contacts in the leadership of the AFL-CIO in order to counter extremist influences - Noraid and the Irish National Caucus have been able to exploit the simplistic attitude adopted by some in Unions such as the Longshoremen's Association. Our Ambassador in Washington has met Tom Donahue who has been delegated by the President of the Organisation, Lane Kirkland, to take charge of Irish-American affairs and relations with the Irish Government and the Irish labour movement. Donahue is a possible future President of the Organisation. Arising from their meeting, the Ambassador has assigned special responsibility for Labour affairs to one of the members of the Economic section of the Embassy.

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(2) The U.S. trade union movement has set up a body, the Irish-American Labour Coalition to deal with Irish concerns. Teddy Gleason is Chairman of this body and while it has some extreme elements in it, many of its members are well disposed to the Government. Earlier this year Gleason himself in a letter to the Ambassador opposed violence and expressed support for the Government's policy on Northern Ireland. It was published with Gleason's agreement.

(3) The question of Irish trade union participation at this years AFL-CIO Convention in Florida is being pursued here, by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. The question arose during the Ministers meeting with Lane Kirkland last March.



30 June, 1983.

Note Additional copy of Brief, for the Taoiseach,
is attached. ✓
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sent
4/2
1/17