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OIFIG AN AIRE GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

BAILE ÁTHA-CLIATH 2
DUBLIN 2

22 March 1985

The Honourable Mario Cuomo,
Governor of the State of New York,
The Executive Chamber,
Capitol,
Albany,
New York 12224.

Dear Governor,

Thank you for your letter of 14 February, 1985, in reply to my earlier letter of 24 January, 1985.

I recognise and welcome your deep concern about the tragic situation in Northern Ireland. It is right that democratic political leaders everywhere should be concerned about the appalling consequences of the underlying political problem in that part of Ireland. Your determination to address specific issues of discrimination is commendable and supportive of my own Government's efforts in this regard. I feel hopeful that your clear statement in your letter to me that you "have endorsed the work of the New Ireland Forum and the attempt to find a political solution to the continuing turmoil in Northern Ireland" reflects a growing understanding of the complex realities identified by the constitutional nationalist parties who participated in the Forum. We in Ireland are deeply appreciative of the interest shown in our problems by major American political leaders. The strength of this interest is demonstrated by the extent of the bipartisan support for the Friends of Ireland Organisation in the United States Congress. That a Son of Italy should wish to respond to the specific concerns of Irish-Americans in New York State in a positive and meaningful way is, of course, particularly appreciated.

In hoping that we may be able to meet to discuss our common concern about Northern Ireland in the near future, I remain concerned that your recent letter to the dinner Chairman of the so-called Irish Northern Aid Committee will dilute the public perception of your clear opposition, as stated in your letter to me, "to any group or faction which supports violence in any form, as the solution to the conflict in Northern Ireland". I reiterate that Noraid is seen by the vast majority of the Irish people as an arm of the Provisional IRA, seventy per cent of whose victims have been Irishmen and women. It has been declared to be an agent of this murderous organisation by the US courts. To be frank, any association with Noraid is

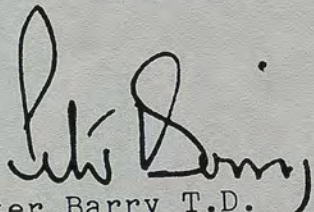
incompatible with the conclusion of the New Ireland Forum Report that:

"Attempts from any quarter to impose a particular solution through violence must be rejected along with the proponents of such methods. It must be recognised that the New Ireland which the Forum seeks can come about only through agreement and must have a democratic basis. (Chapter 5.2 (2) Report of the New Ireland Forum)."

The endorsement which American political leaders including the President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and yourself have given to the work of the Forum has been and continues to be an important encouragement to us in our dialogue with the British Government on the problem of Northern Ireland. We in the Irish Government are hopeful that this dialogue will shortly yield the political progress which is now so necessary to meet the needs of the situation. We have always attached particular importance to informing Irish Americans of our efforts to promote peace and reconciliation among all the Irish people. I can assure you that Irish Government Ministers who regularly visit New York make every effort to deepen Irish Americans' understanding of these efforts and of the true nature of the Provisional IRA. Our Consul General in New York City, Jim Flavin, is always at your disposal should you require his assistance in any way in elaborating the position of the Irish Government.

I want to thank you again, Governor, for your letter and I am glad that you wished to inform yourself regarding the feelings of the vast majority of the people of Ireland on the issues with which we are both concerned. I look forward to our meeting, be it in your great State or in our country where I can assure you we would hope to welcome you before too long.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Barry T.D.
Minister for Foreign Affairs.

*Mr. Dwyer
How are you
faring out?
Immediate reply*

*Received by
FAX from GNY
3:20 p.m. 21.2.85*



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER

*PSM
PSS (for info)
A/Sec
A-1 Section*

TWO WORLD TRADE CENTER
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10047

MARIO M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

*Council General's
Report to follow in bag*

February 14, 1985

Files: 10/5

67/4

9/2 : [Signature] 21.2.85

The Honorable Peter Barry
Office of the Minister for
Foreign Affairs
Dublin 2, Ireland

Dear Minister:

Thank you for your letter of January 24, 1985.

As you may know, I have long been an active supporter of the peace process and an opponent of those who advocate violence in Northern Ireland. I have sought on many occasions to press anew for negotiations to end the bitterness and strife that has been devastating to both the Catholic and Protestant communities. Most recently, I asked for the appointment of a special U.S. envoy to the area. Currently, I am backing legislation introduced by Senator Patrick Moynihan that would authorize the designation of an American diplomat to assist in finding peace.

In other ways, I have actively sought to bring a halt to the bloodshed. I have endorsed the work of the New Ireland Forum and the attempt to find a political solution to the continuing turmoil in Northern Ireland. I have insisted on an end to detention without an attorney in the prisons of Northern Ireland; requested a stop to constant strip searches in the women's jails; demanded that plastic bullets no longer be used by United Kingdom police; and asked for recognition of full civil and human rights for the Catholic minority in employment, education and housing.

I have, finally, taken the public position that I will work with any Irish-American organization that shares these same goals. Above all, I remain adamantly opposed to any group or faction which supports violence, in any form, as the solution to the conflict in Northern Ireland.



C O P Y

CONSULATE GENERAL OF IRELAND

Office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs
Dublin 2, Ireland

January 24, 1984.

The Honourable Mario Cuomo
Governor of the State of New York
The Executive Chamber
Capitol
Albany, New York 12224.

Dear Governor,

A copy of the letter which you wrote to the Chairman of the Irish Northern Aid Dinner Committee has been brought to my attention.

On behalf of the Irish Government I have to inform you that we are deeply distressed that the Governor of the State of New York should express good wishes to this organisation. The Irish Northern Aid Committee has links to the Provisional IRA in Ireland and has been described by the U.S. courts as the U.S. agents of the Provisional IRA. Members of the Irish Northern Aid Committee supply arms and ammunition to kill innocent men and women in Ireland. The Committee supplies money to further the campaign of violence in Ireland and has been directed by the U.S. Federal Courts to register as an agent of the Provisional IRA in the U.S.

Your letter is a source of deep anxiety not alone to the Irish Government but also to Irish people whose families have been the direct victims of the activities of the Provisional IRA and their U.S. agents Irish Northern Aid.

We appreciate that you are genuinely concerned about the situation in Northern Ireland but I would like to emphasise that it is my firm conviction, and the conviction of successive Irish Governments, that activities such as those of the Provisional IRA and the Irish Northern Aid Committee are doing irreparable damage to the prospects of achieving peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland.

I am sure that it was not your intention that your correspondence would give legitimacy and respectability to Irish Northern Aid but, from our own experience, you can be assured that correspondence from such a high office as yours will be used in every way to gain support for their activities; indeed this has already begun to happen.

C O P Y

CONSULATE GENERAL OF IRELAND

Office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs
Dublin 2, Ireland.

Honourable Mario Cuomo
January 24, 1985
Page 2.

I would be glad of an opportunity to meet you so that we may discuss further our concerns in this respect and also other aspects of Irish Government policy in relation to Northern Ireland.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Barry, T.D.
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland