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IRISH EMBASSY, LONDON

SECRET

25 March 1986

4.30am

26/3

17 Grosvenor Place

SW1X 7HR

*Mr Burke's copy
8/4/86*

*M. Kerwan
8/4*

Copy for informant

*21138
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TAOISEACH
MINISTER
SECRETARY
Mr. Nally
Mr. Lillis
Amb. Washington
Mr. Davenport

US aid package - call on David Goodall, Deputy Secretary, PCO

Dear Secretary

Following receipt this (Tuesday) afternoon of your telex C84 and copies of telexes from Washington which you retransmitted I called on David Goodall at the Foreign Office at 5 pm to discuss the question.

As Goodall has been involved in internal British discussions about the attitude to adopt to the US/Libya situation, and as he is going away for Easter very shortly he brought David Barrie of the Republic of Ireland Department to the meeting to take notes and follow up on the matters which I raised. Our discussion of the US aid issues lasted about 40 minutes and Barrie then left to send a telegram. I had a further 45 minutes discussion in private with Goodall on general issues and I am reporting on this separately.

In discussion of the US aid package I spoke in general on the lines of your telex C84 (particularly paragraph 3) and also followed the points in Martin Burke's telex C94 of 22 March and Ambassador MacKernan's C95 reinforcing this. In particular I said that without wishing to criticise directly the British Embassy in Washington we were worried at the fact that they did not seem to be lobbying their friends in the Senate as we had been lobbying ours at a sufficiently senior level. I explained why we think it risky and indeed foolish to try to link the Extradition Treaty and the aid package and especially unwise to seek to put the former to the vote before the latter. I asked that they should instruct their Embassy in Washington (a) to lobby in the Senate at Ambassadorial or other senior level in favour of the House Bill rather than the Administration Bill; (b) that they should not seek to link, and should on the contrary encourage Lugar to de-link, the Extradition Treaty and the aid package; and (c) at a minimum, if Lugar cannot be persuaded of this, to seek to ensure that the aid package is voted on before the Extradition Treaty.

Goodall listened carefully to all this and, without accepting my diplomatically phrased criticisms of their Embassy in Washington, undertook to have our representations passed on to the Ambassador there.

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Goodall recalled that Eamon O Tuathail had expressed some concerns on these lines to him before the recent meeting between our Minister and the Foreign Secretary. Goodall had sent a telegram at the time to the British Embassy in Washington. In reply the Embassy had reported that they had been strongly advocating the aid package; that Senator Lugar, the Chairman of the relevant Senate Committee, had been anxious to try to get the two measures through at about the same time; and that the Embassy considered that it would be counterproductive for the British Ambassador to press Lugar too directly on this.

Goodall said that at the meeting between our two Ministers Sir Geoffrey Howe had spoken to our Minister on these lines (on the occasion of a Political Cooperation Ministerial Meeting). Since then Goodall has had another discussion with Oliver Wright in London. Wright wants to see the House aid package get through the Senate. But he feels that it is Lugar's own idea to link the two issues. He had been somewhat reluctant to press Lugar too strongly on the issue (as Goodall said he was reluctant to try "to teach his grandmother to suck eggs"). But he now intends to discuss the matter himself with Lugar and ask Lugar whether he thinks the approach he is adopting is really helpful. He will in effect "sound him out" without directly criticising his tactics.

I said, speaking carefully, that we had had the impression that at a certain lower level in the British Embassy there may have been some encouragement given to Lugar for the "link" approach (I did not want to mention Sheinwald's name explicitly while David Barrie was there taking notes but in private discussion afterwards with Goodall I told him that this was the person in question and he acknowledged that he had understood as much from my earlier comments). I said that if some in the Embassy had indeed been pushing this line they should have the sense to see that it could be counterproductive even from their own viewpoint - since to vote first on the Extradition Treaty could sour the atmosphere and anger some Senators who oppose it for a variety of reasons. Goodall, while noting their interest in getting the Extradition Treaty through, was not ready to accept that anyone in their Washington Embassy had been pressing the approach I mentioned; and he said (in a friendly way) that if we were to trade criticisms of our respective Embassies they might want to question the impression we had given of the Extradition Treaty. On this I recalled that we had told them frankly some considerable time ago that we thought the matter had been ineptly handled from their own viewpoint and that we had thought the most helpful thing we could do in the circumstances would be to remain carefully at a certain distance from the issue without letting it appear that we were opposed. Goodall acknowledged this but said that what he had in mind was a general attitude which could be conveyed on the ground by nods and winks.

I should emphasise that Goodall was not really making an issue of this but fencing a bit, in a defensive way, in response to my implied criticism of Sheinwald.

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The net position therefore is that (a) I have conveyed our views as instructed to Goodall; (b) the FCO will be passing on our views to their Washington Embassy; (c) Goodall, while acknowledging their interest in getting the Extradition Treaty through, denies that they have been advocating linkage; (d) Wright had however been concerned not to try to tell Lugar his business; (e) nevertheless Wright has most recently indicated that he will be seeing Lugar shortly to sound him out on what he has in mind; (f) in this approach he will now have the benefit of the views which I had strongly conveyed.

In brief while Goodall stopped just short of saying they would issue a direct instruction to Wright (on a matter where they rely on his local judgement) it does appear that our point has been taken and that Wright will shortly be discussing the issue with Lugar.

Yours sincerely



Noel Dorr
Ambassador

Mr Sean Donlon
Secretary
Department of Foreign Affairs
Dublin 2

cc. A/Sec Ó Tuathail