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AN ROINN GNÓTHAI EACHTRACHA  
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 2  
DUBLIN 2

12 March, 1992

Mr. Dermot Nally,  
Secretary to the Government,  
Government Buildings,  
Merrion Street,  
Dublin 2.

Dear Dermot,

The Taoiseach might wish to be aware of the enclosed report from the Ambassador in Washington in preparation for his meeting with Mayor Flynn of Boston. We would hope the Taoiseach could agree to the requests in paragraph 5.

Yours sincerely,

*Seán O hUiginn*

Seán O hUiginn  
Assistant Secretary

*Mr. h. Flynn*  
*Taoiseach* As disclosed -  
this is a copy of  
what has gone to  
To see please *Taoiseach*  
particularly par. 5. *13.3.92*  
Mayor Flynn has been  
very helpful in the past.

Note

The Taoiseach had a meeting with Mayor Flynn on 11 March (11 a.m.) I was not called upon to take minutes of the meeting, thus we don't know what precisely transpired

*13/3*

*11 a.m.  
Monday, 16.3.92*

AMBASÁID NA HÉIREANN  
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EMBASSY OF IRELAND  
2234 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008

CONFIDENTIAL

10 March 1992

VISIT OF MAYOR FLYNN AND CARDINAL LAW TO  
IRELAND, 15-16 MARCH

Dear Assistant Secretary

1. I travelled to Boston on Sunday, at the personal request of Mayor Flynn, to lend support to a function for the Boston/Galway/Derry project; I also took the opportunity of the visit to have private discussions with the Mayor and the Cardinal.

Mayor Flynn:

2. The Mayor is looking forward very much to his meeting with the Taoiseach. Essentially, he wants to convey the message that he and other senior Irish-American politicians are ready, if the Government wish and at the appropriate time, to try and engage the Administration and Congress more actively on the North. They will be guided by the Government on the substance and timing of any move and, in the meantime, they will continue to press strongly for reforms in the human rights, confidence and other areas - very much along the lines of the Government's agenda in the Anglo-Irish Conference.
3. As regards a possible initiative, the Mayor has of course already called for a "peace envoy" on the North to be

appointed by President Bush (see attached article); he is unlikely, however, to lay very much emphasis on this proposal at his meeting with the Taoiseach.

4. Our discussion went on to touch on the campaign for the Democratic Presidential nomination, with the Mayor sharing the view that Bill Clinton, the Governor of Arkansas, would probable be selected. The Mayor - who is well-liked in the Democratic party and has a particular status with colleagues through his Chairmanship of the National Conference of Mayors - made the point that it could be important to develop a good political relationship with Clinton. He also added (in confidence) that, if Clinton were to win the nomination, the Arkansas Governor is likely to select Senator Bill Bradley of New Jersey or himself as the Vice-Presidential running mate (with, however, Bradley being the more likely choice).
  
5. As regards the media coverage of the visit (for which at least one Boston journalist will be travelling), the Mayor would be extremely grateful if:
  - (a) the Taoiseach would agree to a joint photo, and the Press Office could help in putting it on the wires in time for the 17th March U.S. papers; and
  
  - (b) the Taoiseach might, if asked about the visit, respond to the general effect that he appreciates the commitment and concern of Irish-American politicians on the North, and was pleased to have had an opportunity to brief one

of the senior members of this group.

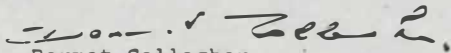
Cardinal Law

- Note: Cardinal Law will be in Dublin only for the evening of 15<sup>th</sup> March.*
6. Cardinal Law is perhaps the most powerful figure in the Catholic Church in the United States (which is the largest denomination here). He is one of a limited number of people who have ready access to President Bush, a fact of which the British are very conscious; Peter Brooke, for instance, made sure he called on the Cardinal during his visit to Boston last year and, while the Cardinal's schedule does not allow for a meeting during the visit on the 15th to Armagh, the Secretary of State is suggesting a link up by phone. The Cardinal is also very close to Cahal Daly, and the two men speak regularly on the phone. *for Peter 12/3*
7. In our discussion, the Cardinal emphasized his deep frustration at the apparent intractability of the Northern conflict. This has led him to the belief that President Bush should not continue to stand neutrally aside but should become engaged in its resolution, if only to put pressure on the British Prime Minister to prioritise the situation and actively to seek a way forward. Though tempted to approach the President in the above sense at an early date, the Cardinal is conscious that the timing may not be suitable, given the British general election and the breakthrough on the round-table talks process (on which I brought him up-to-date). However, he would wish us to be aware of his thinking, and of his willingness to be guided in significant part by us on the issue. I might add also that the Cardinal came across to me

as having a confident sense that, if he did approach the President, he would receive a very sympathetic hearing.

8. As regards the round-table talks, the Cardinal takes the view - perhaps reflecting the thinking of Cardinal Daly - that it is crucial for their success that Sinn Féin are involved in the process, though he fully accepts that they must renounce violence first.
9. The Cardinal makes a major statement on the situation in Northern Ireland every St. Patrick's Day. He went through an early draft of this with me and seemed happy to take on board a number of suggestions I made.
10. If at all possible, I would recommend that the Cardinal be seen officially during his (brief) stop-over in Dublin. (You might find it helpful to have, for this purpose, a copy of his recent statement on violence in the North).

Yours sincerely

  
Dermot Gallagher  
Ambassador

Mr Seán O hUiginn  
Assistant Secretary  
Department of Foreign Affairs