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Reference Code: 2021/94/18

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

IMMEDIATE

FAX

23 OCTOBER 1992

TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON
FOR ASST SEC O HUIGINN FROM AMBASSADOR

cc. PSM
PSS
Tally participants
Mr. Murray
and Small
Councillor A1.
Sllr
27/10

1. Further to my telex yesterday, I am now enclosing copy of the statement (in effect a letter to Bruce Morrison) issued today by Governor Clinton on Irish issues.
2. The statement is very much along the lines envisaged in our telex. The Clinton camp (somewhat tongue in cheek!) is signalling that the text merely seeks to reiterate positions previously taken in public. However, this is unlikely to ease the concern of the British Embassy here.

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October 23, 1992

The Honorable Bruce A. Morrison
2 Whitney Avenue, Suite 700
New Haven, CT 06510

Dear Bruce:

Let me extend my thanks to you for your support and leadership as Chairman of Irish-Americans for Clinton/Gore. Your commitment to the goals we all share -- a Democratic victory in November as well as a better life for all Americans -- has made a real difference.

I want to send my warm greetings and hearty thanks to all of you gathered together this evening in support of our campaign. The support of the Irish American community is crucial to our election effort and I am grateful for your support.

In addition, let me recognize an individual who has provided tireless support for our ticket and who has made a real difference in the struggle for peace in Northern Ireland, Boston's distinguished Mayor, Ray Flynn. And it is a special honor for all of us to have the valued support and guidance of a good friend of Democrats and Irish-Americans everywhere, Paul G'Dwyer.

The lasting contributions of the Irish-American community are what have helped make this country strong. And I am pleased that today President Bush signed into law a Congressional resolution designating March 1993 as "Irish-American Heritage Month." Because Ireland has given so much to our country, we owe a special debt in return. We commend the Democratic leaders in Congress who acted to end the long history of discrimination against Ireland and other nations in our immigration laws. And we will work to ensure that political considerations do not hinder the workings of our courts in asylum cases.

Senator Gore and I share the goal of all Irish-Americans for peace in Northern Ireland. We believe that the United States must reflect this concern more effectively in its foreign policy. We condemn the violence and bloodshed which has scarred Northern Ireland and oppose all attempts to achieve political goals through terror and violence. We call on peoples of nations throughout the world to end their financial support for those who seek to gain their goals by violence.

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We are encouraged by the current talks between the constitutional parties of Northern Ireland and the British and Irish governments. A Clinton Administration will take a more active role in working with the leaders in these nations to achieve a just and lasting settlement of the conflict. A permanent and peaceful solution to the crisis in Northern Ireland can only be achieved if the underlying causes of the strife and instability are dealt with vigorously, fairly and within a time-frame that guarantees genuine, substantial, and steady progress. I believe the appointment of a U.S. special envoy to Northern Ireland could be a catalyst in the effort to secure a lasting peace.

We believe that the British Government must do more to oppose the job discrimination that has created unemployment levels two and a half times higher for Catholic workers than Protestant workers. There can be no lasting settlement in Northern Ireland until such discrimination is ended. The MacBride Principles set forth appropriate guidelines for investment to help achieve these goals.

We also believe that the British Government must establish more effective safeguards against the wanton use of lethal force and against further collusion between the security forces and Protestant paramilitary groups.

The people of Northern Ireland have endured more than two decades of bloodshed and devastation. More than three thousand citizens have died in the continuing violence. A realistic solution to the suffering can be achieved only through political negotiations and the consent of the people, not by further acts of violence.

Senator Gore and I look forward to working with you in the years ahead to achieve these goals and bring peace and justice to Northern Ireland. But we must also join together in the fight for a better America.

It is time to renew our hope for the future of this nation, our faith in the American people and our vision for the kind of country we can build together. Al Gore and I have a plan to rebuild America.

Our Plan reflects the concerns of the Irish-American community who understand the value of family, hard work and community. We will create thousands of new jobs, by among other things, supporting small business and encouraging private investment in America. Our plan seeks to reward people who work hard and play by the rules, by reforming welfare as we know it. We have a strong anti-crime approach based around support for expanded community-based law enforcement. And we will control the health care costs that are currently crippling our economy and provide insurance for the 18 million people without it.

Perhaps most important of all, Al Gore and I will make education a top priority, replacing rhetoric with results. Our

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plan calls for lifetime learning based around educational opportunity. We know that education of the next generation is one of the most important aims of government. Our young people must be prepared to compete in the global marketplace.

With your help, we will win on November 3 and have the opportunity to rebuild America together.

Sincerely,



Bill Clinton

cc PSS

A/Sa O'Higgins (Colfax by SA)

A. Nally .D/7

J. Seaman .D/7

W. Sullivan
M. Sullivan
11-9-92

Tasneem

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22 OCTOBER 1992

TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON
FOR ASST SEC O HUIGINN FROM AMBASSADOR

CCYC

SUBJ: POSSIBLE CLINTON-GORE STATEMENT ON IRISH ISSUES

1. MR SCANNELL, WHO KEEPS CLOSELY IN TOUCH WITH THE CLINTON GORE CAMP, HAS LEARNED THAT THEY MAY MAKE A FURTHER STATEMENT ON IRISH ISSUES AT AN ETHNIC FORUM TO BE HELD IN NEW JERSEY TOMORROW (FRIDAY). THIS IS LIKELY TO BE CHAIRED BY FORMER CONGRESSMAN BRUCE MORRISON WHO, AS WELL AS BEING A CLASSMATE OF CLINTON'S AT YALE, IS CHAIRMAN OF THE GROUP "IRISH-AMERICANS FOR CLINTON".

2. CLINTON, AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, HAD PREVIOUSLY ADDRESSED IRISH ISSUES LAST APRIL, WHEN HE WAS RUNNING FOR THE DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION, AT AN IRISH FORUM IN NEW YORK.

3. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THE NEW STATEMENT WILL NOT DIFFER UNDULY FROM CLINTON'S PREVIOUS STANCE. IT WILL RECOGNISE THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE IRISH TO THE BUILDING OF THE UNITED STATES, CONDEMN THE USE OF VIOLENCE AND PROMISE A MORE ACTIVE ROLE BY THE CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION IN HELPING ACHIEVE A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO NORTHERN IRELAND, AND IN RECONCILING BOTH TRADITIONS ON THE ISLAND OF IRELAND.

4. ON SPECIFIC ISSUES, THE INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE STATEMENT WILL REFER TO THE CASE OF JOE DOHERTY AND, WHILE RECOGNISING THE INDEPENDENCE OF U.S. COURTS, TAKE THE VIEW THAT POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS SHOULD NOT INTRUDE INTO LEGAL JUDGMENTS. ON THE MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES, THE STATEMENT IS LIKELY TO INDICATE THAT THEY COULD SERVE AS APPROPRIATE GUIDELINES FOR FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES. THE TEXT FINALLY IS LIKELY TO MAKE A GENERAL AND CAUTIOUS REFERENCE TO THE SPECIAL ENVOY PROPOSAL.

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5. THE TIMING OF THE PROPOSED STATEMENT MUST BE VIEWED AS AN EFFORT BY THE CLINTON-GORE CAMPAIGN TO SHORE UP ITS FAIRLY SHALLOW IRISH-AMERICAN SUPPORT. PRIVATE POLLING BY THE DEMOCRATS, FOR INSTANCE, IS INDICATING THAT SUPPORT FOR CLINTON AMONG REAGAN-DEMOCRATS (BLUE COLLAR AND LOWER MIDDLE CLASS WHITES), MANY OF WHOM ARE IRISH-AMERICANS, IS SOFT. CLINTON'S STAND ON ABORTION AND THE BUSH CAMPAIGN'S SUPPORT FOR FUNDING PRIVATE (MAINLY PAROCHIAL) SCHOOLS, IN PARTICULAR POSE PROBLEMS FOR CLINTON WITH THE IRISH AND CATHOLIC VOTE. THE STATEMENT THEREFORE IS AN ATTEMPT TO BOLSTER SUPPORT FOR CLINTON AMONG IRISH-AMERICANS, PARTICULARLY IN THE CRUCIAL STATES OF NEW JERSEY AND PENNSYLVANIA WHERE FAIR EMPLOYMENT AND THE JOE DOHERTY ISSUE HAVE A CERTAIN RESONANCE.

COMMENT

6. WHILE WE HAVE ONLY PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS OF WHAT THE STATEMENT MAY CONTAIN, IT POSES NO PROBLEM FOR US. THE BRITISH EMBASSY, ON THE OTHER HAND, WILL BE VERY CONCERNED IF THE REFERENCES TO JOE DOHERTY, THE MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES AND THE SPECIAL ENVOY ARE MAINTAINED. I MIGHT ADD THAT THE CLINTON CAMPAIGN HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY ANXIOUS FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE CAMPAIGN TO AVOID BEING SEEN TO HAVE CONTACT WITH EMBASSIES. HOWEVER, THROUGH MR SCANNELL'S INFORMAL CONTACTS AND THROUGH SENATOR KENNEDY'S OFFICE, WE HAVE HOPEFULLY BEEN ABLE TO INCORPORATE SOME OF OUR THINKING INTO THE DRAFT. WE SHOULD CAUTION, HOWEVER, THAT A DEFINITIVE TEXT HAS NOT YET BEEN DRAWN UP.

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