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CONSULATE GENERAL OF IRELAND

535 BOYLSTON STREET

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02116

February 26, 1993

Ambassador
Washington

U.S. Special Envoy

When I met the British Consul General recently he directed the conversation, as he has done in the past few months, to the U.S. Special Envoy topic. He was taking some pleasure out of the differing agenda which he felt were beginning to manifest themselves among the Irish Americans for Clinton Gore Committee in the recently produced "5 Recommendations on Irish Issues" document. He said that having seen both the original draft and the final product he was satisfied that pieces of the original draft were Noraid inspired. He mentioned, in particular the reference to the William Quinn case. The Consul General was obviously disappointed that the original draft had not issued.

Mayor Flynn's aide Mike Quinlan told me that the Mayor was anxious to know how Irish-Americans in Congress would view the Special Envoy proposal. The statement issued by Senator Ted Kennedy and the other U.S. Senators have given him a certain amount of comfort, as he sees it coming to the heart of the human rights issues in the North while at the same time it appears to be well disposed to the special envoy proposal.

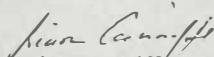
Contact has been established with them from the White House by Deputy Chief of Staff Mark Gearan. Mr. Gearan apparently has said that he would put together, in the near future, a meeting between Tony Lake Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, himself, Mayor Flynn and Bruce Morrison. I understand the purpose of the meeting is to discuss the 5 point document. It is reasonable to assume however, that the main purpose of the meeting from the White House's point of view is to enable them to advise the President on a way forward on this issue. The Mayor believes that the timing of the meeting was left until after the British Prime Minister's visit to allow for a full assessment of the situation. Mark Gearan is considered to be a friend and they expect to receive a favourable hearing.

With regard to Prime Minister Major's position on the special envoy during the visit the Mayor was not surprised at the PM's offer of a fact finding mission to Northern Ireland. The offer is understood here to be a strategy to deflect the special envoy issue and it shows that the British

are under some pressure on the proposal. The Mayor believes that the President came under some pressure to accept the offer of the fact finding mission but he is satisfied that the President "held his ground" on the matter.

Since the recent visit to Boston of former President Carter the Mayor has kept in touch with the Carter Center in Atlanta . The former President said that he would like to help with the special envoy proposal and would get his people to help where possible. Mayor Flynn feels that if the special envoy is to be accepted by all sides he understands that the person chosen would have to be considered neutral. Apparently former President Carter has suggested former U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Andrew Young and the Mayor would be happy with the choice.

The attached draft statement by Mayor Flynn and Bruce Morrison did not issue as yet. It is expected to go out early next week. It's main purpose I understand is to try to assuage fears of unhelpful U.S. involvement in Northern Ireland affairs. The Mayor is continually mindful of the need to keep some of the more radical element within his coalition from controlling the agenda on this issue.


Liam Canniffe
Consul General

FOR

**Clinton
Gore**

February 25, 1993
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Bruce Morrison
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STATEMENT BY RAYMOND L. FLYNN AND BRUCE MORRISON
ON BEHALF OF IRISH-AMERICANS FOR CLINTON/GORE

We are encouraged by indications from President Bill Clinton that his Administration is intent upon playing a positive role in regard to Northern Ireland.

At the press conference with British Prime Minister John Major, President Clinton reiterated his hope that "if the United States can in some way make a constructive contribution to a political settlement, of course we'd be interested in doing that."

This is a significant departure from the two previous U.S. Administrations, which only intermittently took an interest in the difficult and complex problems of Northern Ireland.

We are further encouraged by the healthy discussion which is already taking place in Northern Ireland regarding the notion of a special envoy or a fact finding mission. Northern Ireland citizens should have no misgivings that the United States favors one point of view over another. Rather, the U.S. seeks to apply, in an evenhanded way, its influence, expertise, and resources in a manner which satisfies the aspirations of peace, justice, and opportunity for everyone.

Finally, we fully endorse a letter written from a group of U.S. Senators to President Clinton, urging the President to address human rights abuses in Northern Ireland. Until these abuses are eliminated, the senseless violence and rage which undermine every aspect of society in Northern Ireland will continue to flourish.

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