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Extract from H/1 Brief for period ending 17 November 1993

(14)

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

CONFIDENTIAL

4 November 1993

cc Mr Seammell
Mr Donoghue.

PST
PSS

Joe

Dear Assistant Secretary

1. The U.S. Ambassador to Ireland, Jean Kennedy-Smith, who was on a short visit to Washington, called to see me at the Embassy on Tuesday last. The following summary of some points which arose in discussion will be of interest:

Visit to Northern Ireland

2. Ray Seitz, the U.S. Ambassador in London, had complained bitterly to Washington about Mrs Kennedy Smith's recent visit to Northern Ireland. As a result, the State Department had conveyed their unhappiness to her and issued an instruction that she was to stay out of the North for six months, when the situation would be reviewed.
3. Ambassador Kennedy Smith made no secret of her personal and professional dislike of Seitz and her hope that he will be replaced before too long (by, it is rumoured, the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral William Crowe; the Admiral, who is a personal friend of Senator Kennedy, was one of the few former top military people who supported Bill Clinton during the election campaign and, as a result, helped to undermine much of the Republican rhetoric about Clinton's lack of credibility as a future Commander-in-Chief).

World Cup Visas

4. The Ambassador asked that the Tánaiste not raise the visas issue at the meeting with Secretary Christopher. The Secretary of State had no sense of the issue and, even if we alerted the State Department in advance, would be all at sea. Moreover, the Embassy, which was working closely with the FAI and the travel agencies involved, was determined to lean over backwards to ensure that all genuine soccer fans were accommodated.
5. I emphasised the great domestic importance of the issue for the Government. It would appear decidedly odd, therefore, if it were not raised by the Tánaiste at the meeting; however, this could be done with a light touch, with the detail being pursued at official level.

Visit of Senator Kennedy to Ireland

6. Senator Kennedy is likely to pay a "private" visit to Ireland from 27th December to 2nd January. The Ambassador hopes to organise a dinner in his honour and would, I had the sense, also appreciate an offer of official (if informal) hospitality. She is also thinking of suggesting that a Carol (and peace) Service be organised in St. Patrick's Cathedral, at which he would speak.
7. Finally, she thought that the Senator might wish to get away to the coast (possibly West Cork or Lismore Castle) for a day or so. I should emphasise that the Ambassador has a more developed sense of a possible programme than the Senator at this time!

1995 Irish Festival in Washington

8. The Kennedy Centre in Washington has decided to organise an Irish Festival from 14-18 March, 1995. The cost involved will

be in the region of \$1.5m. It was likely that Bill Flynn, President of Mutual of America in New York, will be asked to be Festival Chairman. (Flynn is a Member of the Ireland-America Economic Advisory Board and was also part of the Bruce Morrison group which visited Ireland recently).

9. The Ambassador, I suspect, is likely to raise some of the above issues when she returns to Ireland.

Yours sincerely

Dermot Gallagher
Dermot Gallagher
Ambassador

Seán Ó hUiginn Uas
Assistant Secretary
Department of Foreign Affairs

cc: A/Secs Barrington, Anderson, Burke