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AMBASAID NA HÉIREANN

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EMBASSY OF IRELAND

2234 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N. W.

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008

24 November 1993

Mr Sean O hUiginn  
Assistant Secretary  
Anglo-Irish Division  
Department of Foreign Affairs

PST  
PSS  
MAC member  
Mr F. Murray  
Andr Smale  
part see  
for Donoghue  
Seth  
30/11

Dear Assistant Secretary

I attach reports on the Tánaiste's visit to Washington as follows:

1. Tánaiste's Meeting with the Secretary of State, 16 November 1993
2. Summary of Tánaiste's discussion on Northern Ireland with President Clinton, 16 November 1993
3. Statement issued by the White House on Tánaiste's meeting with President Clinton
4. Tánaiste's meetings on Capitol Hill, 16/17 November 1993
5. Tánaiste's address to Johns Hopkins University, 17 November 1993.

Yours sincerely

Michael Collins  
Counsellor

Enclosures  
as stated

MC/nc

CONFIDENTIAL

TANAISTE'S MEETING WITH SECRETARY OF STATE, WASHINGTON DC,  
16TH NOVEMBER, 1993

Northern Ireland

1. Following a warm welcome from the Secretary of State to the Tánaiste and his party, Mr Christopher opened the discussion by referring to the situation in Northern Ireland. He said it was "not always easy" for the United States to decide on a position in relation to the issue. Indeed, when considering policy, Washington tended to look to the Irish Government and to those closer to the scene for advice, as against being guided by groups in the United States.
2. The Tánaiste emphasised that the interest and concern of the President and the Administration on this issue was always extremely welcome to the Irish Government. Most recently, Dublin had been very pleased with the President's statement encouraging the two Governments in their efforts to move the peace process forward.
3. The Tánaiste went on to say that his visit to Washington at this time reflected the importance we attached to this interest on the part of the Administration; we felt in particular that we should update the Secretary of State and his colleagues on the developing situation. In this regard, Mr Spring outlined the twin-track approach of (a) the framework for peace process and (b) the efforts to resume the round-table dialogue. While the latter track was languishing somewhat at the moment, the prospects for the peace process were encouraging, with all the indications being that there was a strong possibility that the IRA, in the right circumstances, could be got to declare a cessation of

violence. We were 90% on the way to securing an agreement that would be acceptable to both Governments and would achieve this objective .

4. The alternative to achieving peace now was to see a new generation take over the conflict; this could well mean that another twenty-five years might pass before the situation would be as amenable again to a solution.
5. The Tánaiste also spoke about the forthcoming Dublin Summit, and the preparations for this meeting. He expressed concern that the British for a number of reasons, including the Parliamentary arithmetic at Westminster, were somewhat hesitant about the peace process. Any encouragement therefore that could be given to them, especially from the U.S., would be particularly welcome and important.
6. The Secretary of State asked if, in circumstances where a ceasefire had been called, the IRA would have sufficiently good discipline to control its members, or whether individuals would strike out on their own (this was a point which came up on other occasions including at the meeting with the National Security Adviser, Tony Lake, and presumably reflected British briefing of the Administration). The Tánaiste responded that all the indications available to us suggested that there would be 100% support for a ceasefire if one were called.
7. The Secretary of State asked the Tánaiste if he would interpret the British Prime Minister's remarks at the Mansion House the previous evening, and indicate how they fitted into the overall picture. The Tánaiste replied that he very much welcomed the Prime Minister's remarks, which in many areas had echoed the language the Taoiseach and himself had been using about the need for courage and risk-taking in seizing the

present opportunity for peace.

GATT

8. Mr Christopher said that the 15th December fast-track deadline was "very stark". He hoped that Commissioner Brittan would have flexibility during his visit here this week - flexibility he didn't have the last time.
9. The Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs, Dan Tarullo, who was asked to convey his assessment by Mr Christopher, emphasised that the issue was now one of political will. The parameters for compromise were laid out; it was now a question of taking the hard decisions. He again said forcefully that there was no basis for re-opening Blair House.
10. The Secretary of State, in response to the strongly conveyed view of the Tánaiste that flexibility was required on all sides, agreed that pain would have to be widely distributed. It would be tragic, he said, if the agreement were to go down over one or two issues.
11. The Tánaiste, summing up, said he envisaged that the passing of the NAFTA agreement in the House would give a new and urgent momentum to the GATT negotiations. This should be quickly seized on and exploited. He again emphasised the need, particularly in the context of Leon Brittan's forthcoming visit, for both sides to show the necessary flexibility.

Yugoslavia

12. There was a brief discussion of the situation in Yugoslavia, with the Secretary of State emphasising in particular that the Administration was now devoting very considerable attention to the humanitarian side of the problem.

Iran

13. In a quite forceful presentation, the Secretary of State said that the role of Iran was becoming more and more corrosive. Washington had increasing evidence of Teheran's exportation of terrorism, including far from the Middle East and down "the back side of Africa". (Its negative attitude was most recently reflected in its response to the Middle East peace process).
14. Mr Christopher said he would like to offer a word of caution about in any way facilitating Iran's "breaking into the family of nations". It was a country which did not keep its engagements and obligations and it needed a message to this effect from the civilised community.
15. The Tánaiste said he understood the concerns of the United States. He had taken the opportunity on a number of occasions recently, including his meeting with the Iranian Foreign Secretary during the UN session and a call by the Iranian Ambassador in Dublin, to raise these and other issues. He had indeed gone "beyond the call of duty" in emphasising the Irish Government's deep concern about the Iranian approach to issues.

Adams visa

16. The Tánaiste touched lightly on the President's letter to Mayor Dinkins about the Gerry Adams visa case and, in particular, the view in the letter that the Irish Government were not in favour of a visa being issued. Mr Spring made the point that the Government had not been consulted adding that we were, of course, always available to be sounded out on issues of this kind. The Secretary of State asked what view we would have conveyed if we had been consulted. The Tánaiste responded that, while the question of a visa was one between



the individual applicant and the U.S. Administration, views on issues of this kind can change from month to month.

Special Envoy

17. In a brief discussion on the Special Envoy issue, the Tánaiste said that our position had not changed from that set out by the Taoiseach last March. As said earlier, we warmly welcomed the interest and concern of the Administration on Northern Ireland, including the fact that the peace Envoy option was "still very open".

Soccer visas

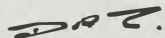
18. The Tánaiste outlined the background to the almost certain Irish participation in the World Cup next year and the considerable number of Irish people who would wish to travel to the United States to support the national team and would need visas for this purpose. The Secretary of State said he hoped that a satisfactory solution could be worked out. Assistant Secretary Oxman added that his colleague Mary Ryan, the Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs, would be travelling to Dublin in early December and would be prepared to discuss all aspects of the issue.

507.  
21 November 1993

SECRET

SUMMARY OF TÁNAISTE'S DISCUSSION ON NORTHERN IRELAND  
WITH PRESIDENT CLINTON, WASHINGTON DC, -  
16TH NOVEMBER 1993

1. The President emphasised that "we want to help and to be supportive" on Northern Ireland. He asked the Tánaiste to let him know how this could best be done.
2. The Tánaiste in reply, and after setting out in some detail the context of the present initiative, said it would be enormously helpful if the President could send an encouraging signal to London. Mr Clinton, who listened intently to the Tánaiste's presentation and was clearly well briefed, responded that "we can do that".
3. The President also referred in warm terms to the efforts to advance the peace process, and to recent speeches, of the Taoiseach and Tánaiste. He was conscious that the efforts of the Government, and of Mr Spring personally, had helped greatly to bring about the present degree of progress, and he encouraged the Tánaiste to "hang in there". He also realised that John Major had parliamentary difficulties but if a solution were to be found, the Prime Minister would see his "standing go up". He added that he had been particularly encouraged by the approach taken by the Prime Minister in his Mansion House address the previous evening.
4. The meeting continued on these encouraging lines, with the President saying that he would send John Major "a note about his speech". It concluded with the Tánaiste reiterating the Government's invitation to the President to visit Ireland at a convenient time.

  
22 November 1993



THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary

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For Immediate Release

November 16, 1993

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

The President met today with Irish Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dick Spring at the start of Minister Spring's meeting with National Security Adviser Anthony Lake. The President praised the efforts of the Irish government to advance the prospects for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland. President Clinton also recognized the personal contributions of Minister Spring in advancing the cause of peace and reiterated the U.S. commitment to support in any appropriate way the efforts of the Irish and British governments in this important endeavor.

Mr. Lake and Minister Spring also discussed a wide range of other issues, including their mutual commitment to achieving a GATT agreement by December 15 and the work of the International Fund for Ireland.

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Tánaiste's Meetings with Speaker Foley and other

Congressional Leaders

16-17 November 1993

1. On Capitol Hill, the Tánaiste was guest at a luncheon hosted by House Speaker Thomas Foley. Other Congressmen who attended the lunch included Congressmen Frank McCloskey, Richard Neal, Lee Hamilton, Ben Gilman, Jack Quinn and Dave Obey. The discussion centered primarily on Northern Ireland but questions also arose on broader political issues, including the situation in former Yugoslavia.
2. Following the Speaker's lunch, the Tánaiste had a meeting with members of the Friends of Ireland in Congress under the chairmanship of Congressman Frank McCloskey.
3. At a meeting with the Majority Leader in the Senate, Senator George Mitchell, the discussion was focussed on Northern Ireland with the Senator emphasising his Irish roots and his support for the Government's efforts for an early breakthrough to end the violence in Northern Ireland.
4. In a meeting with Members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee under the chairmanship of Congressman Lee Hamilton,

the discussion was again primarily focussed on Northern Ireland although other issues, including the opening of an Israeli Embassy in Dublin, were also raised.

5. In the course of other calls on the Hill, the Tánaiste met separately with Senators Kennedy, Leahy and Moynihan. Apart from Northern Ireland, other issues raised at these meetings included Tax Deferral (the Tánaiste thanked Senator Moynihan for his help in this area), Visas in the context of the World Cup/the Visa Waiver Programme (Senator Kennedy in particular was conscious of our interest on this matter) and the International Fund for Ireland (the Tánaiste used the occasion of the meeting with Senator Leahy, who is Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, to emphasise the importance of the Fund and to thank Senator Leahy for continuing US assistance).