



An Chartlann Náisiúnta
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TO: HQ, ANGLO-IRISH

FROM: DERMOT BRANGAN

ATTENTION: GERRY CORR

SUB: REACTION IN REPUBLICAN IRISH AMERICAN CIRCLES TO
THE IRA CESSATION OF VIOLENCE

1. As you may be aware, there has been a generally warm welcome in republican Irish American circles for the IRA's cessation of violence. Indeed many members of Noraid have publicly praised the Taoiseach's role in the peace process, including a few who have phoned the Consulate to congratulate the Government.
2. In the wake of the Joe Cahill visit, there are recurring reports that not all of the republican groups are happy with the cessation. There are repeated rumours that the longstanding ill will of Sinn Fein towards Martin Galvin, ex Publicity Director of Noraid and the editor of the Irish People paper, may soon become public. These rumours suggest that the Irish People will soon close. With a circulation of less than 5,000, the costs of running the office, staff, printing costs, etc., now far exceed monies from sales or subscriptions. The cost of running the paper is subsidised heavily from other sources such as monies collected at Noraid functions. Sinn Fein have long felt that the monies spent on the paper could be better spent elsewhere. It may be a long term strategy to open a lobbying office in Washington with the savings from the closure of the Irish People.
3. The central theme of the current rumours is that Galvin as editor deliberately and against the wishes of Sinn Fein printed in last week's edition of the Irish People an advertisement from George Harrison, a founder member of Cumann na Saoirse which is loosely connected to Republican Sinn Fein and Friends of Irish Freedom. A copy of the ad is

attached. Harrison, you may recall, was acquitted of conspiracy to export arms to Ireland in the early 1980s along with the then Director of Noraid, Michael Flannery. Galvin is also blamed for a story in the New York Daily News recently about Gerry Adams travel plans to the U.S. which was seen by Sinn Fein as premature and unhelpful. It was evident from Adams visit earlier this year that Galvin is not favoured and his role in the February visit of Adams was consequently minimal.

4. Many of the diehard old guard in Noraid were to a large extent never going to accept fully the IRA's cessation of violence. They were hostile to SF Councillor Cuimhin O Caoileann from Monaghan when he came preaching the peace process over a year ago to New York and were lukewarm to Adams message earlier this year. The extent to which Noraid may split in the months to come will depend on the message Adams brings on his forthcoming visit.
5. I hear also that a female representative from Republican Sinn Fein is flying out this weekend to assess the mood of republicans here and perhaps to recruit members. Normally her first port of call would have been Michael Flannery of Friends of Irish Freedom which supports RSF but he had a fall recently and is very seriously ill in hospital. Another possible factor in deciding whether Noraid members will accept the cessation will be the upcoming visit of Bernadette McAliskey. She is believed to have much clout with the Tyrone born members of Noraid and Clann na Gael (particularly strong in the Philadelphia area). Her attitude to the IRA cessation will be influential in their decision on the matter.
6. While support for the cessation of violence will depend on developments in Northern Ireland, it is likely that the majority of Noraid will retain its links with Sinn Fein. As of today in the New York area, the only likely prominent defection to Cumann na Saoirse/Friends of Irish Freedom/Republican Sinn Fein is Martin Galvin. The younger active members like Sean Mackin, Michael Cummins, etc., will probably remain with Noraid. The visits of Adams and McAliskey will however be important determinants as to whether the vast majority of the republican community accept the IRA cessation.

c.c. Ambassador, Washington.

George Harrison Statement

One of the "Freedom Five" George Harrison said: The only solution to the centuries old issue is Brits out. They have been there 825 years too long already, using all the weapons of imperialism to break the spirit of resistance but have failed in their attempted conquest.

Declarations of convenience or surrender will not bring a lasting peace to Ireland, only a declaration of British withdrawal will accomplish that. The quest for a free and independent Irish socialist republic will continue, until the monster of partition ends for the people of my native Ireland like the monster of white minority rule has ended for the people of South Africa.

Fraternally, George Harrison, New York, 09/01/94.