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SECURE FAX NO: #114

6 DECEMBER 1994

TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON  
FOR ASST SECRETARY O HUIGINN FROM M COLLINS

RE: MEETING WITH SECRETARY OF COMMERCE RON BROWN

1. Ambassador Gallagher called by appointment on Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown today to discuss details of his visit to Ireland next week and to brief him about the peace process.
2. Secretary Brown said that he was very enthusiastic about the mandate which he has been given by President Clinton to attend the Belfast Investment Conference and to prepare the way for the Investment Conference hosted by the White House in Philadelphia in April. The Secretary said that he recognised the critical importance of investment and the role that the United States could play in this respect.
3. At the Secretary's request, Ambassador Gallagher outlined the background of the problems in Northern Ireland and the efforts that brought about the ceasefire on all sides. He emphasised the critical influence of President Clinton. In particular, he said that Adams would not have been able to persuade the IRA to call a ceasefire were it not for the courageous decision taken by the President to grant Adams a visa last January. It was obviously of vital importance now that there should be a peace dividend. The bulk of new investment was likely to come from the United States and Europe. There was,

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in particular, a critical need for jobs in deprived areas of Northern Ireland.

4. The Ambassador indicated to the Secretary the importance of the United States being seen as a friend to all sides and of the United States also emphasising the importance of people working together on an all-Ireland basis in the many areas where this is possible and mutually beneficial. The Secretary wondered about his itinerary which comprises Derry, Belfast, Dundalk and Dublin and asked whether the Ambassador had any views on this. The Ambassador said that he thought the itinerary was a good one. A visit to Derry added important balance and would be greatly appreciated. Derry was a model of what was possible if people worked together in Northern Ireland. A visit to Dundalk was also extremely worthwhile. The border areas had themselves been very badly affected by The Troubles of the last 25 years. He assured the Secretary that plans for his visit to Dublin, including the formal dinner in his honour, were well in hand. There was a brief discussion on the current political situation with the Ambassador emphasising the common commitment to the peace process by all prospective parties in any new Government.
  
5. Secretary Brown was clearly concerned about the difficulties caused by the way in which the British were handling Sinn Féin's attendance at the Conference in Belfast. The Ambassador said he hoped that the situation would be satisfactorily resolved. Secretary Brown said that he had some indications that Sinn Féin might also be invited to the dinner on the 13th of December although he was not sure about this. He clearly implied that if the Sinn Féin issue were not resolved adequately he would be under some pressure to meet with Adams during the Belfast visit or, perhaps, even during Adams's current visit to Washington (in fact, Secretary

Brown subsequently "dropped in" on Adams's meeting with National Security Adviser Lake at the White House this afternoon).

6. The Secretary indicated that the Congressional delegation was still being worked on. He was hopeful that it would comprise two Members of the House and two Members of the Senate to be nominated by relevant party leaders. So far he could not say for definite who would be included although he mentioned Senator Dodd and Congressman Kennedy (Secretary Brown said that he had hoped that Senator Specter from Pennsylvania would also accompany him but this was now looking unlikely). The Ambassador warmly welcomed the intention to include a bipartisan Congressional delegation on the visit. He said this was highly appropriate given the interest and common approach by both Democrats and Republicans to Irish issues over the years.
  
7. As far as the business delegation is concerned, it was hoped that this would comprise some 10 businessmen including the following: Mr Jim Stafford (American Home Products), Mr Ron Evans (CEO, Best Western International Hotel), Mr Bill Flynn (Mutual of America), Mr George David (President of United Technologies), Mr Pat Keough (President and Chief Executive of Computronics and ICCUSA), Mr Jim McCann (800-Flowers), Ms Susan Morrice (Power Gen Colorado), Mr Jim Molloy (Smurfit USA) and, possibly, Mr Bill Farrelly (Fruit of the Loom). Secretary Brown said that he himself had become directly involved in encouraging businessmen to travel in view of the difficulties in coming up with a suitable delegation. He said that the short notice in particular had caused problems.
  
8. Insofar as others accompanying the Secretary are concerned, these are likely to include, in addition to Department of

Commerce personnel, Mr Jack Quinn, Chief of Staff to the Vice President; Ms Susan Brophy, Deputy Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs; Ms Kathy Stephens of the National Security Council, Mr Jim Lyons, US Observer to the IFI and Ms Martha Pope, Chief Assistant to Senator Mitchell. Altogether, the party, including Congressmen, businessmen and staffers, should comprise around 30 people. The current plan envisages that they will also accompany the Secretary on the Dublin leg of the visit.

9. Secretary Brown is hosting a lunch on Monday for the travelling delegation and both Ambassador Gallagher and the British Ambassador have been invited to attend and make appropriate remarks.

ENDS