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Reference Code:	2021/48/96
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AMBASÁID NA hÉIREANN

(202) 462-3839



EMBASSY OF IRELAND

2234 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N. W.

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008

SECURE FAX

5 September 1994

TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON
FOR G CORR FROM COLLINS

RE: CAHILL VISA

*PST
PSS
A/sec O'Leary
Dr Manfegh
secretariat
Embassy London
Counsellor AI*

1. As you are aware, the US has agreed to extend Joe Cahill's visa to allow him to travel more extensively in the US and to remain here until 19 September.

2. The extension of Cahill's visa was approved with difficulty over the weekend. However, the White House had contacted us urgently on Friday evening and expressed deep worry that they had received no request for a visa extension from Cahill. We were told that, while Cahill had not given any trouble and had behaved himself, the extension of the visa beyond Sunday was "not a foregone conclusion" and that it was "not in his interests to take it for granted" and to put himself in a technically illegal position. The White House said that their legal advice was that, while the process could be handled orally and did not require Cahill to present himself to the INS (the late hour in the evening on the holiday weekend here in any event would make this difficult) a further visa waiver was required thus necessitating consultations with the Attorney General.

3. While we, of course, have had no direct contact with Cahill, we immediately spoke to Bill Flynn who helpfully undertook to get a message to Cahill and to ensure that the situation was regularised to the satisfaction of the White House. This was subsequently done and the White House confirmed the visa extension to us on Saturday.

4. Cahill's extended visit to the US will include San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego, Kansas City, Florida (probably Fort Lauderdale) and Cleveland.