

Confidential

*Mr. Nolan
Mr. [unclear]
[unclear]*

**Taoiseach's meeting with U.S. Vice-President Al Gore
Shannon Airport, Wednesday, 7 September, 1994**

1. The Vice-President was in transit through Shannon on his way from the UN World Conference on Population and Development in Cairo. He was accompanied by Mr. Leon Fuerth, National Security Advisor, Mr. Bill Wyse, Deputy National Security Advisor, Mr. Dennis Sandberg, Chargé d'Affaires, U.S. Embassy and Mr. James Glenn, First Secretary, U.S. Embassy. The Taoiseach was accompanied by Dr. Martin Mansergh, Special Advisor and the undersigned. The meeting lasted some 35 minutes.

2. After the usual courtesies, the Vice-President congratulated the Taoiseach on the achievement of the I.R.A. ceasefire. President Clinton had told him of his meeting with the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and the U.S. Administration were very encouraged by the considerable progress which had been made. The Vice-President said that the Northern Ireland situation was a priority for them and they kept in daily touch with Anthony Lake (National Security Advisor) and Nancy Soderberg (National Security Council).

3. The Taoiseach said that the support of the U.S. Administration was of very great importance to the Irish Government and they deeply appreciate it. Giving some of

the background to the I.R.A. announcement, the Taoiseach said that a number of factors had contributed to the I.R.A.'s decision, including the helpful decision to grant a visa to Gerry Adams, the lifting of the Section 31 ban and the repatriation of political prisoners to Northern Ireland. Referring to his meeting the previous day with Gerry Adams, the Taoiseach said that he was trying to keep momentum in the whole process - it was important to solidify it as quickly as possible. He was attempting to give both Sinn Féin and the Unionists the space in which to move forward. Handing the Vice-President a copy of the joint statement issued following the meeting with Adams, the Taoiseach drew specific attention to the total and absolute commitment in that statement to democratic and peaceful methods of resolving the problem. He stressed that it was also important to note the reference to the fact that the problem could not be resolved without the participation and agreement of the Unionist people.

4. The Vice-President referred to the controversy over the refusal of the I.R.A. to say that their ceasefire was permanent. It was his understanding that the permanency clause was in the Joint Declaration but he wished to get a clearer picture of what was involved. The Taoiseach said that he did not believe that the problems with the British on this point were serious. John Major had said that he would not be hung up on one word. The important thing was to get Sinn Féin into the democratic process.

Explaining something of the Republican movement's ethos, the Taoiseach said that it would be difficult for them to be seen to accept a British demand for the use of the word "permanent". The Secretary of State had said that it would be satisfactory for the British Government if Sinn Féin said that the Irish Government had interpreted their ceasefire statement correctly. Sinn Féin had said that the Government has responded correctly to the I.R.A. announcement. The Vice-President commented (jokingly) that the problem reminded him of the comment on the past relationship between the British and the Americans - "two peoples divided by a common language".

5. Responding to a question from the Vice-President as to where things went from here, the Taoiseach outlined his plans for the establishment of the Peace Forum. There was a difficulty at present with Unionist participation but this might change. In a reference to the position of James Molyneaux, the Taoiseach said that he had held the line well. The Vice-President said that the U.S. would be anxious to help in reaching out to the Unionists. He had met Molyneaux in Washington in April and had tried to telephone him from his aircraft prior to arrival in Shannon. The Taoiseach said that any assurances which the U.S. could give to the Unionists would be extremely helpful - their attention should be drawn to the joint statement's emphasis on the fact that the problem could not be resolved without the participation and agreement of the Unionist people.

6. There followed some discussion on the fall-out from Ian Paisley's meeting the previous day with the British Prime Minister. The Vice-President then asked how best he should deal with media queries, particularly in relation to the "permanent" question. The Taoiseach said that it would be important to emphasise the reality of the ceasefire and the fact that peace was the paramount consideration. The I.R.A. statement spoke for itself and the joint statement following his meeting with Adams emphasised the total and absolute commitment to democratic and peaceful methods.

7. The meeting was extremely cordial throughout - at its conclusion the Vice-President made a light-hearted comment about the Nobel Peace Prize for the Taoiseach and the possibility that he could be the first foreigner to feature on Mount Rushmore.

8. Following the meeting the Taoiseach and the Vice-President participated in a Joint Press Conference. Statements were also issued by the U.S. and Irish sides - copies attached.



BRIAN McCARTHY
7 September, 1994.

c.c. Secretary to the Government
Dr. Mansergh
Mr. N. Dorr
Mr. S. Ó hUiginn
Mr. T. Dalton
Ambassador, Washington.

5 September 1994

Mr. Brian McCarthy
Assistant Secretary
Department of the Taoiseach

*Mr. Walker
Mr. Gribben*

[Handwritten mark]

Re - Transit of Vice-President Al Gore

Dear Assistant Secretary,

Further to our conversation this morning I wish to confirm the following information conveyed to me by Mr. Sandberg, US Embassy. VP Gore's flight will now arrive in Shannon on Wednesday next at 10.30 am and depart at 12 noon. Their suggested programme would be as follows;

- 10.30 Arrival
- 10.45 Meeting
- 11.15 Press "availability" (their terminology)
- 11.30 VP Gore boards plane
- 11.30 Departure

As you can see 11.30 seems very early for boarding and we may have some flexibility viz timing. The VP would be accompanied by Mr. Leon Fuerth, National Security Advisor to the President, Mr. Bill Wyse, Deputy National Security Advisor to the President, and in the absence of Ambassador Kennedy Smith, Mr. Dennis A. Sandberg, Charge d'affaires, US Embassy and Mr. James H. Glenn, First Secretary (Political), US Embassy acting as notetaker. On our side I would envisage the Taoiseach, possibly the Tanaiste, yourself and one or two senior DFA officials.

On arrival the VP's Boeing 707 would taxi to a pier and the VP would walk through a land bridge to a terminal building where the Taoiseach would greet him. The meeting would take place in Aer Rianna's Presidential VIP Lounge. I have spoken to Aer Rianna. The Lounge is large enough to facilitate easy chairs at the entrance and a table to seat 10 at the other end of the room. Teas, coffees etc. will be served.



It is anticipated that a statement would be issued after the meeting and that both the Vice-President and the Taoiseach would take questions in the Press room which is located across the corridor from the Presidential VIP Lounge. (A room adjacent to the VIP Lounge will be reserved as an office and a direct telephone line is being installed there).

Aidan O'Hara

Aidan O'Hara
Assistant Chief of Protocol

DRAFT PRESS RELEASE

Meeting with Vice-President Gore

Shannon, 7 September, 1994

The Taoiseach met the United States Vice-President, Mr. Al Gore, in Shannon today on his return from the World Conference on Population and Development in Cairo.

On behalf of the Government, the Taoiseach thanked the Vice-President for the sustained and crucial support given by the US Administration towards an end to violence and the development of an agreed political settlement in Ireland.

The Taoiseach affirmed that the Government attach great importance to the continuing support of President Clinton and his Administration in advancing the process of peace. At the meeting, there was a very positive exchange on how best to realise the human and economic opportunities released on foot of the IRA's cessation of violence.

The Vice-President shared the view that this watershed development marks the beginning of a new era. The resolve in the US to realise the full potential which this presents is a source of great encouragement as efforts continue with a renewed sense of hope to achieve an agreed political settlement based on full and equal respect for difference.

jc 6/9