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EMBASSY OF IRELAND
2234 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008

Strictly Confidential

9 September 1994

Dear Seán

D. O'Connell
See file please - report from Ambassador Gallagher 13/9

cc PST
PSS
A. F. Murray
Dr M. Mansel
Mr T. Dalton
Seán
12/9

1. During lunch to-day with Niall O'Dowd, a range of issues of interest came up in discussion and are summarised below:

Proposed U.S. visit

2. Gerry Adams would wish to come to the United States in late September for about two weeks. Ideally, he would like to begin his visit in Washington on the 22nd and spend approximately two days here, meeting as many key people as possible. He would then visit New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

3. Adams would be accompanied on the visit by Richard McAuley, Sinn Féin's Press Officer, and Aidan McAteer, his speech writer. The visit to Washington would be arranged in large part by Niall O'Dowd, while that to other cities by local contacts. Interestingly, a Gerard McGuigan (who helped with liaison for the last visit), and not Martin Galvin, will be in charge of the New York arrangements; O'Dowd mentioned in this regard that Adams does not trust Galvin and wants him replaced as Head of Noraid at an early date.

Timing and Purpose of Visit

4. O'Dowd went on to say that Adams had little flexibility with the timing of his visit given a planned early October meeting of an important grouping within the Republican movement; it would be very helpful if he could carry the status of a further U.S. trip into this meeting.

5. Apart from the above dimension, there is still some concern in Sinn Féin circles about the attitude of a small number of Sinn Féin supporters in the U.S. In this regard, and while Joe Cahill had received "a ninety per cent positive response to his presentations", it was considered relatively important that Adams try to win over, or at least neutralise, the remaining few. These were mainly from Co Tyrone, and there was an additional danger that they might be further alienated by a forthcoming visit to America by Bernadette Devlin, who has been very unhelpful to the whole process.
6. I should mention also that Republican Sinn Féin are sending over a (lady) representative this weekend, but it was not thought she would have much impact.

Funding of visit

7. The Adams visit will be funded by a new organisation, the American Friends of Peace in Ireland. This is effectively Chuck Feeney; the organisation is at present being incorporated for tax free status by Brian O'Dwyer.

Prisoners

8. O'Dowd also said that the most persistent question to come up at the Cahill meetings concerned Republican prisoners either in jail or awaiting extradition here. He has conveyed this to Nancy Soderberg. Indeed, Ms Soderberg also mentioned it to Michael Collins and myself recently in the context of a question which had been put to her in a BBC television interview. She took the line that this was a matter for the Justice Department but one suspects that, in the right circumstances, some flexibility might be possible. I might add that, in the extradition cases, the admission of the defendants to bail would greatly help to defuse the issue.

Martin McGuinness

9. O'Dowd said that Martin McGuinness would also be applying for a visa but at a later date.

General

10. O'Dowd finally made the point, which has also not escaped many of our friends here, that all parties (except Paisley and the DUP who went to London) seem to wish to come to Washington these days!
11. I have just heard from Nancy Soderberg that there will be a Unionist delegation here from the 26-28 September.
12. We will need to keep in close touch on many aspects of the above.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dermot Gallagher', with a checkmark to its right and a large, stylized flourish in parentheses to its left.

Dermot Gallagher
Ambassador

Seán Ó hUiginn Uas
Assistant Secretary
Department of Foreign Affairs