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SECURE-FX TRANSMISSION

Mr. Collins
24. 2. 1994

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Mr Mc Keefery
Mr Mc Keefery issued a statement -
on this appointment - this afternoon.

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IMMEDIATE

Mr F. Tunny
Dr M. Mansfield

SECURE FAX NO: 113

30 NOVEMBER 1994

TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON
FOR ASST SEC O HUIGINN

FROM M COLLINS

① This is a welcome & prestigious appointment. A welcoming statement is being drafted.
② The White House are anxious to keep the decision under wraps until the President's announcement.

RE: ECONOMIC SUPER COORDINATOR

She
30/11

- As discussed, the White House has just advised us that President Clinton will announce the appointment tomorrow morning of Senator George Mitchell as "Special Adviser to the President and Secretary of State for Economic Initiatives in Ireland". The plan is to make the announcement at 10:15 am in the Oval Office where the President will introduce the Senator and take questions from the Press. Mitchell's appointment is with effect from 1 January 1995 (he will not, therefore, as far as we are aware, have any involvement in Secretary Brown's visit or the Belfast Conference).
- As you are aware, the White House had looked at the possibility of appointing an Economic Super-Coordinator at the time of the launching of the US economic initiative on 1 November but decided to postpone further consideration until after the elections.
- Mitchell's appointment is extremely good news from our point of view given his stature and profile. He hails from working

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class roots and worked his way through Law School as an insurance clerk. He was adopted at an early age and assumed his adopted parents' name (his real name is Kilroy). Mitchell is proud of his Irish roots and has kept a watchful eye on Irish affairs during his time in Congress. He has met most Irish political leaders over the years and met most recently, in September, with the former Tánaiste.

4. Appointed to the Senate in 1980 and elected there in 1982, Senator Mitchell was chosen as Majority Leader in January 1989. His genial temperament, shrewd political instinct, dedication to the task at hand and commitment to finding compromise without sacrificing goals earned him both popularity and respect. Considered both for membership of the Supreme Court and as Commissioner for Baseball, Senator Mitchell was prevailed upon to remain as Majority Leader to assist in the passage of health care reform (this, of course, did not make it through the last Congress).
5. Senator Mitchell had announced his retirement from the Senate earlier this year and did not stand for re-election in November. The media have been reporting in the last few days that Mitchell may this weekend marry his fiancée and longtime companion, Heather Machlachlan (this will be Mitchell's second marriage).
6. Following the White House ceremony tomorrow, we would recommend that the appointment be warmly welcomed by the Government.

ENDS