



**An Chartlann Náisiúnta**  
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Mr Nolan  
Mr Coakley  
Dun G.

~~Mr Coakley~~

Congressional Meetings, 17 March 1994.

March 27,

Senator Leahy

Following lunch hosted by Speaker Foley and subsequent discussions (subject of a separate report), the Taoiseach called on Senator Pat Leahy. He thanked him for his letter of support for the Declaration. Senator Leahy said he wanted to let the Taoiseach know he was on his side. The Taoiseach said nothing was easy, and there was nothing that did not have to be worked for. Senator Leahy said the children were the best hope, as the adults would never get over their fear and hatred.

The Taoiseach said peace was slowly but surely making ground. They all made the right decision on the visa.

Senator Leahy said it was good to be around on St. Patrick's Day to remind people of Ireland, as all the problems of the world come into the US.

The Taoiseach referred to the envoy idea, and what he had told Bruce Morrison. President Clinton had made a vital phone call to Major at the right time. Clinton and the former PM would not have got on very well. The visa decision would be proved right, and it gave SF a taste of what was possible.

Senator Leahy said the US believed in free speech. It did not mean they agreed with what might be said. He also asked about the economy. The Taoiseach explained we would have a growth rate of 4 - 5%, and inflation of 1.7%. Senator Leahy said a lot of countries would like to have that. He asked how GATT would affect Ireland.

The Taoiseach said Ireland would take its chances. We exported per head 4 to 5 times more than Japan. But naturally we had hung in with the French to benefit from any concessions.

There was some discussion of tourism, and the potential of telemarketing, which was more focused than TV advertising. Senator Leahy thought the travel pages of the weekend papers were important, as that was where people find the deals. They wanted some idea of the cost.

The Taoiseach concluded by thanking him for all his help.

Senator Edward Kennedy

The Taoiseach referred to the more conciliatory statement of Gerry Adams on 17 March, following the very unsatisfactory IRA statement at the weekend. In response to a question about EU support, he referred to Delors' statement, and EU financial support for the ghetto areas, for the IFI, and of course new North/South structures would have an EU component. But of course the EU would not side with one country against another.

Ambassador Gallagher said Britain wouldn't listen to Europe the same way as they would listen to America.

Senator Kennedy asked if there were benchmarks for progress, or was everyone in a holding mood.

The Taoiseach speculated about the possibility of Easter. He said he had intelligence of a fairly divisive meeting of the IRA Army Council meeting. Some hardliners are holding out. All recognised it would be very difficult to restart talks, once they had stopped. They had reached the generational change-over, and there was a fair amount of support for a cessation of violence. There was no split between Adams and McGuinness, but a fair bit of the soft cop/hard cop routine.

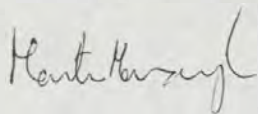
In reply to a question about Heathrow, the Taoiseach said the IRA could be trying to show that they were coming from a position of strength. Some members would not want to stop, and with the cellular system had the freedom to do their own thing. Some

branches were more militant, East Tyrone, South Armagh, which would nevertheless be led by Adams, and some of those in West Belfast.

He then commented on the British situation. The right-wingers were trying to pressure the Government. The set of principles would remain. Mayhew would go ahead with the talks. Major was on a narrow majority, and had no identifiable successor.

Senator Kennedy said that President Clinton's engagement was a positive factor. Bill Flynn was thinking about a venture fund, which could be very helpful. Corporate Irish-America was coming in behind the politicians.

The Taoiseach said they were a tremendous force to be moulded together. He also referred to the opportune timing of 'In the Name of the Father', given the Paul Hill case. He said he would be coming to America for the World Cup.



27 March 1994.