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EMBASSY OF IRELAND

2234 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N. W.

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008

SECURE FAX SF. 5

11 January 1994

Dear Assistant Secretary

I am enclosing a short report on the attendance by the Minister for Justice at the funeral in Boston yesterday for the late Speaker, Tip O'Neill.

Yours sincerely

Dermot Gallagher
Ambassador

Seán O hUiginn Uas
Assistant Secretary
Department of Foreign Affairs

cc Pat Monaghan PST
~~Pat Nelson~~ PSS
 JH
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 Mr F. Murray
 Mr T. Dalton
 Mr. Conaghan
 JCH

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EMBASSY OF IRELAND

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WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008

11 January 1994

Funeral of Speaker O'Neill

The Minister for Justice represented the Government at the funeral of the former Speaker, Tip O'Neill, yesterday. In the absence of President Clinton at the NATO Summit in Brussels, the Administration was represented by Vice President Gore. Two former Presidents, Carter and Ford, were also present as was the Speaker, the Republican leadership in the House, Senators Biden, Dodd and Kennedy, and a very large number of present and former Congressmen. John Hume represented the SDLP at the funeral.

In a private discussion, the family expressed their deep appreciation for the decision of the Government to be represented by a senior Minister at the funeral. This view was also conveyed by political friends of the late Speaker.

Both before and after the ceremonies, the Minister took the opportunity to speak privately to a wide range of the political leadership present. In particular, the Minister conveyed, in separate conversations, the appreciation of the Government to Vice President Gore and to Speaker Foley for the strong support and endorsement from Washington of the Joint Declaration for Peace. The Vice President - who expressed particular appreciation for the Minister's decision to travel - emphasised the Administration's continuing and deep interest in supporting the Government's efforts for peace in Northern Ireland.

The Minister also gave a number of interviews, in which she paid a very warm tribute to the support and solidarity of the late Speaker on Irish issues over the years, to radio, television and press covering the funeral.

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To sum up, the presence of the Minister was very much appreciated and sent a clear signal that the efforts on our behalf over the years of retired or deceased friends on Capitol Hill continue not just to be remembered but to be deeply appreciated by the Government.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
Dermot Gallagher
Ambassador