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CONFIDENTIAL

Visit of President Clinton

Note:

Irish officials met the US advance team on 29 September, 1995, to start preparations for the visit. While final proposals for the programme must await the return of the advance team to Washington DC, the preliminary outline of the visit remains the same; meeting with the President, meeting and substantive discussions with the Taoiseach, address to Joint Houses of the Oireachtas, Taoiseach's dinner and a game of golf in Ballybunion and a visit to the Limerick/Clare area. I referred to the fact that the preliminary programme contained political and cultural elements but that it would be necessary to include an economic aspect e.g. a visit to a US plant in Ireland. The US side reacted favourably to this idea. After some general comments from the leader of the US advance, Mr. Paige Reefer, the meeting broke up into bilaterals of those involved in specific areas.

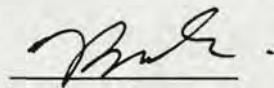
In a discussion which we had with Mr. Reefer after the meeting, he said that the present intention was that President Clinton would spend the night of 30 November in Belfast, "the President wishes to do so for symbolic reasons". Reefer also said that President Clinton would leave Ireland for Madrid late on the night of Saturday, 2 December.

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The next US advance team will be in Ireland towards the end of October.



Brian McCarthy,
29 September, 1995.

c.c. Taoiseach
Secretary Teahon
Secretary Murray
Mr. Sean Donlon
Mr. Shane Kenny