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cc. Pss/PST
Secretary of the Irish
Ambassadors' Conference
Joint Secretary
A/Sec. Kieran, DIT/Sec. Gen.
S.O. Hall, DIT&T
Counsellor A.1

Pages: 4

Date: 19 September, 1996

To: Press Section From: Washington

For: Dan Mulhall From: O'Neill

C/C: James McIntyre (Anglo-Irish Division)
Dermot Brangan (NY)

Pittsburgh - Trade and Investment Conference

Attached is a copy of the press release issued today by the Department of Commerce formally announcing the forthcoming Trade and Investment Conference in Pittsburgh (6-8 October).

I am meeting the D/Commerce press people tomorrow to discuss the press arrangements for the Conference and will report to you following the meeting.

hu Lribbin
To see, please. Please
mean re meeting
in DFA on Friday
at 10. a.m.
hu
24-9-96

END



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE
NEWS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20230

OFFICE
OF THE
SECRETARY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, September 19, 1996

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**COMMERCE DEPARTMENT TO HOST CONFERENCE
FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT IN
NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE BORDER COUNTIES OF IRELAND**
Pittsburgh Conference to Boost Commercial Ties Between U.S. and Ireland

WASHINGTON -- Advancing the Clinton Administration's commitment to the Northern Ireland peace process, Commerce Secretary Mickey Kantor today announced plans to host a U.S. Conference for Trade & Investment in Northern Ireland and the Border Counties of Ireland. The matchmaker Conference, scheduled for October 6-8 in Pittsburgh, will bring together companies from Northern Ireland and Ireland's Border Counties with U.S. companies seeking commercial opportunities.

"Throughout the world, in Northern Ireland as well as in Bosnia, South Africa, and the Middle East, this Administration has been committed to the kind of job creation and economic growth that helps in building peace and stability. Trade and investment with Northern Ireland builds new bridges, bringing people together as partners rather than rivals. It encourages cooperation rather than confrontation, mutual goals over narrow prejudice," said President Clinton. "I am excited about the prospects of the Pittsburgh conference and look forward to hearing about its successes. By doing business with Northern Ireland, American firms have a unique opportunity: to grow and create American jobs, and at the same time serve the cause of peace."

"Commercial diplomacy -- U.S. business interests supporting U.S. foreign policy goals -- is one of the most effective tools America has to bring peace and stability to troubled spots around the world," added Secretary Kantor. "The Pittsburgh Conference is a vivid example of commercial diplomacy in action and represents the next step in President Clinton's commitment to supporting peace through prosperity in Northern Ireland."

This Conference follows a series of Administration economic initiatives aimed at furthering the peace process (see attachment). It follows the President's successful visit to Northern Ireland and Ireland last year and the White House Conference for Trade and Investment in Ireland that

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**Conference on Trade and Investment in Northern Ireland,
Page Two**

took place in May 1995. This Conference is tailored to business matchmaking and efforts to generate specific investment, joint ventures, strategic alliances and increased trade.

In addition to Secretary Kantor, Conference participants will include Commerce Under Secretary for Trade Stuart E. Eizenstat, Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring, as well as trade ministers from both Northern Ireland and Ireland. Also participating will be former U.S. Senator George Mitchell, Special Advisor to the President and the Secretary of State for Economic Initiatives in Ireland, who is chairing the Multiparty Talks in Belfast, and Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Sir Patrick Mayhew. U.S. business representatives will include Dr. Anthony J.F. O'Reilly, Chairman and CEO of H.J. Heinz Co.

The Pittsburgh Conference will focus on matching businesses from Northern Ireland and Ireland with potential U.S. partners in information technologies, environmental technologies, health technologies, as well as the food industries and tourism sectors. Other sectors will be covered in general manufacturing, and tradeable services will be featured. Economic and community development officials from the U.S., Northern Ireland and Ireland will also be invited.

Attached: Chronology of Events

Chronology of Events

- December 1993 -** Prime Minister John Major of the United Kingdom and Prime Minister Albert Reynolds of Ireland sign a Joint Declaration committing their governments to work for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland on the basis of a new understanding between them.
- August -
October 1994** - The Irish Republican Army (IRA) and loyalist paramilitary groups respectively declare a cease-fire.
- November 1994 -** In response to the cease-fire, President Clinton announces a package of measures aimed "to ensure that peace brings to Ireland new opportunities for job growth and economic prosperity" (see White House Press Release for deliverables).
- December 1994 -** President Clinton appoints former U.S. Senator George Mitchell as Special Advisor to the President and Secretary of State for Economic Initiatives in Ireland. Secretary of Commerce Ronald Brown leads a delegation of US business representatives to participate in John Major's Investment Conference in Belfast.
- May 1995 -** The White House Conference for Trade and Investment in Ireland takes place in Washington, DC. The conference features speeches by President Clinton, Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Secretary of Commerce Ronald Brown, and Senator George Mitchell (Special Advisor to the President for Economic Initiatives in Ireland).
- October 1995 -** Assistant Secretary of Commerce for International Economic Policy Charles F. Meissner leads a business development mission to Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland. This mission brings 16 US companies to the region and represents a wide range of business sectors including agribusiness, information technologies, and environmental technologies.
- November 1995 -
December 1995** - Secretary Ronald Brown accompanies President Clinton on an historic trip to the region. This is the first time a US President has ever traveled to Northern Ireland.
- June 1996 -** Acting Assistant Secretary William W. Ginsberg leads a business development mission of eleven US companies in the information technologies sector to Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland.
- October 1996 -** The Commerce Department hosts the U.S. Conference for Trade and Investment in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.