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AMBASÁID NA HÉIREANN
TELEPHONE: (202) 462-3939
FAX: (202) 232-5993

EMBASSY OF IRELAND
2234 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008

29 August, 1997

To: A-I Division

From: Washington

For: Paul Murray

From: Adrian O'Neill

c/c: *Consuls General*

PSM, PSS, Sec. Gallagher
Counsellors A-I, Mr Teahon,
Mr Dalton, Dr Mansergh,
Ambassadors London &
Washington, Joint Secretary,
Box
a·I 35 1/4

Re: Visit of the SF delegation to Washington

1. We have previously reported on the likely shape of the visit of the Sinn Fein leadership (Adams, McGuinness and O Caolain) to Washington, 2-4 September. It might be helpful now to provide a final overview of the expected programme:

Tuesday 2 September

6.00PM	Delegation arrives in Washington from Dublin (via JFK).
6.30PM	Irish-American Community Reception (organised by the Irish-American Unity Conference).

Wednesday 3 September

9.00AM	Press Conference at the National Press Club.
12.00 noon	Meeting with Senator D'Amato (R-NY).
2.00PM	Meeting with US Secretary of Commerce, Bill Daley.
3.15PM	Meeting with Senators Kennedy and Dodd.
5.00PM	Meeting with the National Security Advisor, Sandy Berger, at the White House.

Thursday, 4 September

8.15AM	Meeting with Members of Congress at the office of Representative Peter King (R-NY).

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10.00AM Meeting with the House International Relations Committee (Chairman: Ben Gilman R-NY). **Speaker Gingrich will drop by**.

11.30AM Meeting with Senator Torricelli (D-NJ).

1.00PM Depart for New York.

2. SF should be pleased by the above programme, which is substantive. Their meeting at the White House will be with the National Security Advisor, Sandy Berger (the same level at which the Secretary of State for NI was received in May). The fact that the President is out of town on vacation will help to avoid any perception that SF were being down-graded. (Indeed, Mr Adams was already quoted in the ***New York Times*** as saying that he presumed the President would have met them if he had been in town.) There does not appear, at this stage, to be any suggestion of a "drop-by" by the Vice-President.

3. SF will be pleased that there will be an encounter with the Speaker. As we had reported, Congressman King was pressing hard for the meeting. The Speaker's office indicated to us privately that while they were reluctant to agree a one-on-one meeting, they did not want to "totally stiff them" either. The compromise was a "drop-by" by the Speaker at the International Relations Committee meeting.

4. On the media side, I understand that no arrangements have yet been made for the SF delegation to meet the editorial board of the ***Washington Post***. They will, however, call on the editorial boards of the ***New York Post*** and the ***New York Daily News***. In regard to TV, I understand that both ***CNN*** and the ***Newshour with Jim Lehrer*** may be interested in interviews but have not yet confirmed.

END

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