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Sec. Gallagher,
Joint Secretary,
Amb. London
A-I Counsellors

CONFIDENTIAL

Report on the Meeting between officials from the Department of the Taoiseach, Department of Foreign Affairs and the American Site Survey team regarding the visit to Ireland by President and Mrs Clinton

A meeting, chaired by Mr. W. Kirwan, D/Taoiseach took place today at Government Buildings between officials from the Department of the Taoiseach, the Department of Foreign Affairs and the United States Site Survey Team, headed by Mr. Dan Rosenthal. List of participants is attached.

Mr. Rosenthal suggested that the White House intended the forthcoming visit to have a different character to the President's very successful visit in 1995. They envisaged a minimum of formal events and as much interaction as possible with the public. The President also wished to relax during the visit and would wish to visit Ballybunion for golf.

Mr. Rosenthal indicated that planning for the visit, especially the programme development was at an extremely tentative stage. During the meeting the American delegation noted various suggestions from the Irish side and said they hoped to be able to provide a broad outline of a draft programme shortly after their return to Washington from Moscow (likely to be early August ?).

Mr. Rosenthal did however say they were fairly certain that the President would arrive in Dublin from Northern Ireland on the evening of Thursday, September 3. Depending on the time of arrival a meeting with the Taoiseach at Government Buildings is envisaged for Thursday evening or Friday morning (more likely).

Programme planning for Friday 4 September is still at an early stage, but the Taoiseach has proposed that President Clinton join him in jointly hosting a "partnership" event, emphasising the strong links that exist between Ireland and the United States as well as the social partnership on which Ireland's recent economic success has been built. This event could be outdoor or indoor and would take place before an invited audience (small or large) reflecting all sectors of Irish society. The US team are visiting several locations in Dublin today (National Concert Hall, O'Reilly Hall, Dublin Castle, RHK, RCSI, IFSC, Intel etc) to view possible locations for an address.

Other locations are being viewed for a possible (OTR - Off The Record) walkabout including Temple Bar, Grafton Street and Nassau Street.

It is probable that the President and Mrs. Clinton will overnight at the American Ambassador's residence Dublin on Friday evening.

The President is likely to travel to the west or south west of Ireland on Saturday morning. The US team are visiting Ennis (New Age Information Centre), Limerick City, the National Technological Park and the Dell computer plant in Plassey as well as Listowel, Ballybunion, Tralee, Killarney. Towns are being viewed for possible sites for a big public rally.

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Mr. Rosenthal was unable to confirm if the President would depart from Shannon Airport on Saturday evening or Sunday.

In response to a question on the President's visit to Northern Ireland Mr. Rosenthal indicated that planning was also still at a relatively early stage. Themes would highlight business development including US investment as well as reconciliation. Mr. Rosenthal also indicted that the survey team had visited Armagh and Enniskillen to look at possible sites for an open air address. Given the sensitivity involved Mr. Rosenthal asked for confidentiality regarding all plans relating to the programme.

Mr. Rosenthal confirmed that Mrs. Clinton will be accompanying the President to Ireland. The status of her programme is even less certain then that of the President's. Mrs. Clinton will not accompany the President to Ballybunion to play golf, however it is uncertain if she will require a separate "official" programme or if she would prefer "to enjoy the area". An advance team from Mrs. Clinton's office will visit Ireland following the August bank holiday weekend, as will a White House Press team.

Mr. Rosenthal indicated that they would expect to make extensive use of helicopters during the President's visit to avoid long car journeys and disruption to traffic.

Adrian Farrell
Protocol

24 July 1998

cc PSM, PSSG, A/Sec Kirwan, Mr. Hennessy (Washington), Ms. White, Mr.Mulhall, Mr. Brangan

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In Attendence:

Department of the Taoiseach

Wally Kirwan,Assistant Secretary
Joe Lennon, Government Press Secretary
Pat Power, Head of Protocol
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Department of Foreign Affairs

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US Embassy/Sight Survey Team

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Kirk Hanlon, White House
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