



*Full* *in haste*  
*Thank you. The*  
*reply.*

STORMONT  
BELFAST

BT4 3SW

ASST SEC - 5 OCT 1993  
CENT SEC

ASST SEC - 7 OCT 1993  
CENT SEC

CONFIDENTIAL

- 5 OCT 1993

cc Mr Semple

Mr D Watkins  
CCRU  
Stormont Castle

*in haste*  
*Ed. I see the*  
*draft to P. Wilson*  
*in order to reply. pl..*

CONWAY MILL

*6.11*

I thought you would be interested to see the attached letter to the Chairman from Congressman Hoke. The letter erroneously refers to a meeting with the Chairman which is, I think, a confused reference to a meeting which I had with the Congressman at Townsend Enterprise Park and on which I reported to Mr Semple in my minute of 14 July. I had forwarded a copy of this minute to you.

I am aware that following a review of the status of Conway Mill the Secretary of State has agreed that the existing policy should continue and I await formal communication of this decision to the Fund. Once this is received the Fund can then reach a decision on the outstanding application from Father Wilson and respond accordingly.

Following this the Fund can consider a reply to the Congressman's letter. Any comments which you may be able to offer on a possible reply would be helpful.

*C Todd*

C TODD  
IFI Secretariat

4 October 1993

- 1. cc Mr Cooke SL
- 2. *in haste*

*Crateful for advice / draft reply. IFI's*  
*reply can do no other than*  
*record their rejection of the*  
*Mill's application, it seems to me,*  
*citing the Soff's concern that*  
*funding wd. further the*  
*standing of terrorists (ie. not just*  
*those whose political views no doubt*  
*share). Agree? JFW 5.11*

5446

*Mr Watkins*  
*I agree. All we*  
*can do is to point*  
*to the terms of the*  
*letter which Father*  
*Wilson will receive*  
*from the M. Carter: we*  
*cannot say any further*  
*than this.*  
*WJ 5/10*

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COMMITTEES:  
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AND TECHNOLOGY  
TASK FORCE ON HEALTH

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3510**

September 23, 1993

Mr. William T. McCarter  
Chairman  
International Fund for Ireland  
Post Office Box 2000  
Belfast BT4 3SA

Dear Mr. McCarter,

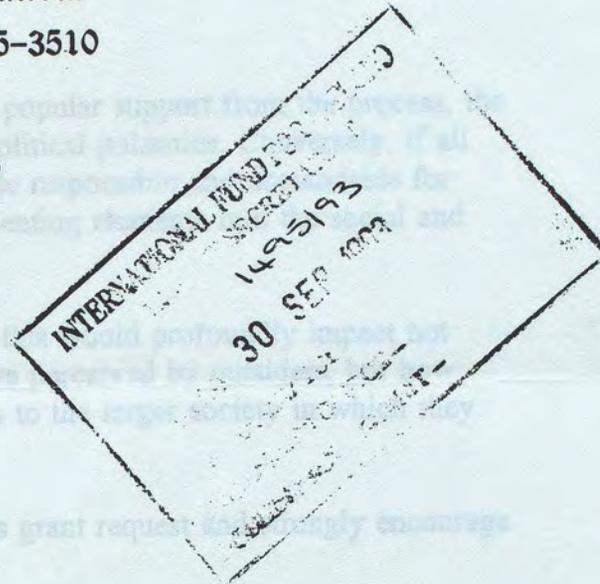
Thank you again for meeting with me during my recent trip to Northern Ireland in July. I am writing to follow up on our conversation regarding Conway Mills.

During my visit to Belfast, I was privileged to gain an extraordinary exposure to Ireland's expansive landscape of political views and opinions. On reflection, this trip provided me with a very unique and balanced impression of Northern Ireland and her situation.

It is my assessment that through centuries of British influence, Northern Ireland has developed a political and economic system that is built upon the exploitation of religious differences and rivalries. Today Northern Ireland finds itself saddled with the rotting remnants of an unjust foundation. The fact of the matter is there are no simple solutions to Ireland's very complex problems, and it is my belief that no lasting and equitable solution will be possible without the full inclusion and participation of all political parties.

This brings me to the International Fund for Ireland and Conway Mills. After having met with Father Des Wilson and touring Conway Mills, I feel the worth of this project is self-evident. Father Wilson is working in the poorest section of Catholic West Belfast on a number of initiatives designed to improve peoples' lives through economic development, education, and hunger relief. Despite the merits of the program, the IFI has denied Conway Mills' grant requests solely because the British government disagrees with the politics of Father Wilson.

This is truly unfortunate and will inevitably prove counterproductive. After all, IFI was established with the objectives of promoting economic and social advancement and of encouraging contact, dialogue and reconciliation throughout Ireland. It is not only important for IFI to support Conway Mills because of the value of its programs, but it is equally important to draw it out of the underground and into the mainstream.



Mr. William T. McCarter  
September 23, 1993  
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By excluding political groups with dissenting views and popular support from the process, the British government successfully aggravates the natural political polarities. Conversely, if all groups were brought within the process and thereby made responsible and accountable for outcomes, the government would succeed in pulling dissenting elements into the social and political mainstream.

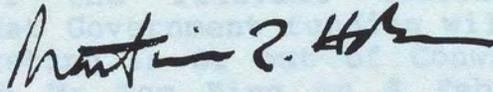
If the IFI were to fund the Conway Mills grant request, this would profoundly impact not only how the individuals involved with Conway Mills are perceived by outsiders, but how those individuals view themselves and their own relation to the larger society in which they live.

Again, I urge you to invite Conway Mills to resubmit its grant request and strongly encourage the IFI to give it a favorable review.

I greatly appreciate your attention to this request and am available to discuss this matter with you at any time.

Kindest personal regards.

Very truly yours,



Martin R. Hoke  
Member of Congress

MRH:mc

RC/11412