

~~RESTRICTED~~

DM

19/12

FROM: D BROOKER
SIL DIVISION
NOVEMBER 1992

1 - Secretary
2 - Mr Holmes
- pl discuss

MR WATKINS, CENT SEC

cc PS/PUS (L&B)
Mr Thomas
Mr Loughran, DED
Mr Bell
Mr Alston
Mr Cooke
Mr Maccabe

1. cc PS/PUS full
in Carroll
in Newell
2. in Newell

FRANK COSTELLO

I attach some interesting correspondence between John Owen and Jonathan Powell.

2. I was slightly disconcerted by Jonathan Powell's seemingly instant dismissal of the idea of a new political appointment to the US Consul General in Belfast, to supplant the idea of a peace envoy. Owen's note makes it quite clear that the priority for the post would be to promote a joint US/NI economic agenda, including trade links between cities in Northern Ireland and the US along the lines of the Boston/Londonderry venture. I am not sure that, were the post to be constructed in this way, the Unionists would indeed object as Powell suggests - although they might no doubt make adverse noises if the person concerned took too high a profile on political or security issues. I should welcome your thoughts.

3. I have not, myself, copied the papers to Pat Carvill but he might be interested in seeing paragraph 7 of Owens' note, which refers to QUB.

D Brooker

D BROOKER

P.S. Since dictating this note, something akin to this idea surfaced at 'Tops' this afternoon - and the Secretary of State seemed to endorse it. I shall look out the Parliamentary record.

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RN/SIL/20479

PSH 2.12.92
No. 2.12.13

H.E. DIVISION
D: 6-1-93
N: 656-11

Secretary's Office
Received 11/12/92
No. 1.12.24

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British Embassy
Washington

NORTHERN
IRELAND OFFICE
24 NOV 1992
SIL DIVISION

19 November 1992

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BOSTON

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Washington D.C. 20008-3600

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Facsimile: (202)

*could be involved in Northern Ireland that they can show their
Irish American constituency that they are doing something, and it
is encouraging that Jon...
Thinking about these more...*

J. H. Hill

*(with attachment)
Jonathan Margolis Esq
SIL Division, NEO(II)*

*(with attachment)
Dear John,
Parr Esq, 310, 700*

YOUR LUNCH WITH FRANK COSTELLO

1. Thank you for your fascinating letter of 10 November recounting your lunch with Frank Costello. This contains a good deal of useful information along with a certain amount of hyperbole and getting the wrong end of the stick on Frank Costello's part. On Clinton's Irish letter for example what probably happened was that Nancy Soderberg asked her former colleague in Ted Kennedy's office, Trina Vargo, to produce a first draft. Trina probably consulted Brendan Scannell on the points to include. She was subsequently extremely cross about the Irish Voice article in which Scannell had tried to puff the Irish role in producing the letter.
2. We believe we should treat Costello's proposal that there should be a political appointment at the US Consulate-General in Belfast very cautiously. Although better than the idea of a peace envoy it could still cause us problems. It is hard to imagine Costello being well received by the Unionists. Our first aim is to kill the proposal altogether. And it will be difficult for a Clinton administration to insist on it if there is already some sort of process going on and if we and the Irish resist the idea. If we have to fall back at some stage there are other ideas floating around such as the proposal that a Clinton administration should send a fact finding mission to London, Dublin and Belfast. But for the moment we are not even interested in this proposal.
3. We are more interested in the idea of an investment tax credit for Northern Ireland - an idea filched from Brian Donnelly. It seems to us extremely unlikely that Clinton could accept this when he has campaigned against investment tax credits for overseas investment, attacking Bush for doing exactly this. Nonetheless we are keen to find positive ways in which a Clinton administration

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D.M.



British Consulate-General
Boston

could be involved in Northern Ireland so that they can show their Irish American constituency that they are doing something, and it is encouraging that Joe Kennedy - or his people - should be thinking along these more constructive lines.

*Yours ever
J.N.P.*

J N Powell

cc: (with attachment)
Jonathan Margetts Esq
SIL Division, NIO(L)

(with attachment)
Don Farr Esq, RID, FCO

Danny McNeill, NIB

LUNCH WITH FRANK COSTELLO

1. I am writing to confirm some of the points which I mentioned to you on the telephone yesterday, resulting from my lunch with Frank Costello, Chief of Staff to Congressman Joe Kennedy on 2 November.

CONGRESSMAN JOE KENNEDY

2. Frank Costello said that Joe Kennedy has built up considerable credit with President-elect Clinton, as well as with the Democratic establishment. Kennedy restricted his campaigning to Massachusetts. As a result he is blamed upon as being responsible for achieving the highest percentage of votes for Clinton than any other State including Kentucky.

3. While we were at lunch Frank was called away to the telephone. When he returned he said that Joe Kennedy had telephoned from Florida where he is taking a two-week holiday to say that he is no longer sitting for appointment to the House Ways and Means Committee as an ex-officio member of that Committee.

4. In response to my question about today's full-page article in the Boston Herald regarding that Joe Kennedy might run for Governor in 1954, Frank Costello said that he did not talk this out. But that he would not decide until the end of 1953 or

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D.M.



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Boston

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10 November 1992

Mr Ralph 13/11
Ms [unclear] 13/11
Mr Poynter or 1

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Mr Jonathan Powell
British Embassy
Washington

Dear Jonathan,

LUNCH WITH FRANK COSTELLO

1. I am writing to confirm some of the points which I mentioned to you on the telephone yesterday, resulting from my lunch with Frank Costello, Chief of Staff to Congressman Joe Kennedy on 9 November.

CONGRESSMAN JOE KENNEDY

2. Frank Costello said that Joe Kennedy has built up considerable credit with President-elect Clinton, as well as with the Democratic establishment. Kennedy restricted his campaigning to Massachusetts. As a result he is looked upon as being responsible for achieving the highest percentage of votes for Clinton than any other State including Arkansas.

3. While we were at lunch Frank was called away to the telephone. When he returned he said that Joe Kennedy had telephoned from Florida where he is taking a two-week holiday, to say that he is no longer bidding for membership of the House Ways and Means Committee as he now expects to get the Chair of one of the House Banking Sub-Committees.

4. In response to my question about today's full-page article in the Boston Herald speculating that Joe Kennedy might run for Governor in 1994, Frank Costello said that he did not rule this out. But that he would not decide until the end of 1993 or

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beginning of 1994. He added that the reason the article had got so much prominence was because he had promised Ken Chandler, the Managing Editor, that Joe Kennedy would try and get the Herald an interview with Bill Clinton!

CLINTON'S IRISH LETTER

~ probably used a lot to cover.

5. Frank Costello claims that the second page of the Clinton letter to Bruce Morrison was drafted by Brendan Scannell, of the Irish Embassy in Washington. He explained that he had been told by Leonard Doyle, New York correspondent of The Independent, that Brendan Scannell is the second cousin of Niall O'Dowd of the Irish Voice. In addition that either Scannell or O'Dowd - or indeed both - are friendly with Nancy Soderberg, one of Clinton's Foreign Policy Advisers. Frank added that he thought that O'Dowd also had an input into the letter.

MAYOR FLYNN

6. On 7 November the Boston Globe carried an interview with Flynn in which he said that even if he was offered a position by Clinton he would not accept it, and that his place was in Boston. Frank said that the Mayor had decided to make this announcement to kill increasing press focus on the amount of time which he has spent out of Boston campaigning for Bill Clinton while Boston is being neglected. He therefore decided to state publicly that his campaigning for Clinton was not for personal gain but for the good of the City - he has built up credit with Clinton which will help the City in the long term. Frank Costello thought that it was unlikely however that Flynn would have been offered a senior position by Clinton. Flynn had therefore decided to get in first before Clinton started announcing the new job-holders.

QUEENS UNIVERSITY - EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

~ clearly ed to do some re work on Kennedy

7. When I last saw Frank Costello he said that Joe Kennedy was running out of patience with Queens University. The University has already been fined more than once for breaking Fair Employment Legislation. It is time they put their house in order. I handed him some information provided by Danny McNeill covering the appointment by Queens of independent auditors. Frank said that he would look at these but he was under instructions from Joe Kennedy to try and identify all US

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sources of funding for Queens University. Unless the University changes its policy, Joe Kennedy plans to get these sources of funding cut off.

MACBRIDE

old
1110 line.

8. Frank Costello said that he thought we were wasting our time and money on lobbying against the MacBride Principles in the US. We were hitting our heads against a brick wall. He added that we had already accepted and included in the Fair Employment Legislation many of the main MacBride Principles. In his view we should say publicly that we accept the MacBride Principles, we had codified some of them in legislation, but that some were impracticable, eg protection from home to office. He thought that if we did so we would deflate the MacBride balloon in the US.

ADVICE TO THE BUSH CAMPAIGN

old hat -
1
agreed

9. He asked me to pass back that the Clinton team were "bitter" about the fact that the Bush campaign had received advice from Conservative Party Political Advisers. He did not know the names but he thought that one was an ex-aide of Lord Owen. He later telephoned me to say that the Irish Echo would be carrying a story on this next week.

SPECIAL ENVOY

quite a neat
idea.

10. Frank Costello said that on 1 November the Sunday Times published an article by Patrick Farly dated New York, which said that "while the Special Envoy could be a high profile figure such as Jimmy Carter it could equally be a low ranking Consulate official". Leonard Doyle telephoned him from New York to ask if he knew the background to the story. Frank told him that he did not. However Frank went on to tell me that he had discussed with Joe Kennedy the idea that one way of tackling the Special Envoy question, which neither the British nor Irish Governments supported, was to appoint someone to the Consulate-General in Belfast with the specific task of promoting a US/NI economic agenda including promoting trade links between cities in Northern Ireland and the US on the lines of Boston/Derry. While at the same time keeping a watching brief on political developments, Talks process, etc. He had told Joe Kennedy that he would be interested in taking on the job. He thought that this could be how Patrick Farly picked up the

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FROM: J B WHITE
AREA HOUSE OFFICE

DATE: 9 OCTOBER 1992

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story. But if such a job was created Frank doubts whether the Irish Government would welcome his appointment to the slot. In view of Scannell's links with Nancy Soderberg, he thinks that the Irish could put pressure on Clinton not to appoint him.

Good.

11. Frank went on to say that he is working with Mike Powell in Joe Kennedy's office on a proposal that investment tax credits should be given to companies planning to invest in Northern Ireland and also to companies already there who propose to expand their operations and create jobs. In answer to my question, as to how this would fit in with MacBride, he said that the MacBride Principles had only been accepted at State level whereas this would be a Federal programme and MacBride Principles had not been accepted at a Federal level. The legislation was aimed at showing the Irish-American lobby that Clinton was taking some positive action with regard to economic development and job creation in Northern Ireland. A political appointee working in the Consulate-General in Belfast could also be responsible for overseeing the working of the legislation.

12. A low level appointment in the US Consulate-General in Belfast would certainly be preferable to a high-powered US Special Envoy. I can think of worse people than Frank Costello to do the job. His views on many issues are more moderate than they were. His visit to Belfast in July helped. He has good experience in economic development, is Co-Chairman of Boston Ireland Ventures, is close to Joe Kennedy, and would be endorsed by Mayor Flynn. I would be interested in your preliminary reaction to the Costello idea.

13. I leave it to you to decide whether to give this letter wider circulation.

John Owen

c.c. Mr Danny McNeill, NIB Washington