

21 October 1992



R E S T R I C T E D

PAB/8383/WKL/RN

FROM: W K LINDSAY  
POLITICAL AFFAIRS DIVISION  
DATE: 22 OCTOBER 1992

Mr J W Thorp  
British Embassy  
Dublin

you as to whether ASST mm594/10  
Personal promotion of SEC 26 OCT 1992 /  
letter then I'm sure CENT could SEC  
several parts of the document.

CC  
Mr Alston - B  
Mr Watkins - B  
Mr Cooke - B  
Mr Farr, RID  
Mr Maccabe  
Mr McKervill

Mr Murphy /588/91

But any visit to NI  
without going to Belfast  
officially would tend to  
undermine the  
negative.

UNDER  
SE  
ab91/0  
23 OCT 1992  
CENT SEC

25  
25.10

Mr Murphy

POSSIBLE LINKS BETWEEN LORD MAYORS OF DUBLIN AND BELFAST

Following receipt of John McKervill's minute of 20 August on this subject PAB made informal soundings of the Lord Mayor of Belfast. The response was not totally dismissive (nor it must be said was it encouraging) Alderman Ditty said he would need to consult his party colleagues on the Council. Despite reminders, nothing was heard - I suspect some of this was due to the fact that so many councillors were out of Northern Ireland on business in the intervening weeks. When in the City Hall on other business today I took the opportunity to speak to the Lord Mayor in the presence of Fred Cobain and the latter, who is influential in the Belfast City Council UUP declared his outright opposition to what he described as a window-dressing stunt. The Lord Mayor said nothing in the face of this strong expression of opposition.

2. The PAB assessment of the situation is that Alderman Ditty does not really want to mark his year in office by embarking on a symbolic event such as this without party support. He also needs to secure the agreement of his "running-mate" Deputy Lord Mayor Frank Millar who is likely to be greatly opposed to such a move. It may all prove too difficult. However we have also raised the question quietly with Jim Wilson, Chief Executive, UUP and he is to speak to Reg Empey, who as you know is a more accommodating UUP councillor. We should be in a position to comment further on this after the UUP conference on Saturday (24 October).

R E S T R I C T E D

21 October 1902

**R E S T R I C T E D**

On timing or indeed the propriety of a visit to Belfast by Mr Mitchell, depending on the programme we feel there should be no impact on the current Talks process. If Alderman Ditty is offered a slot in a programme and refuses he will not be able to complain too much. It should be possible to construct a reasonable programme, in or out of Belfast, as happened for the very personable Mayor of Wexford some time ago, although she was here under the wing of a unionist, Jim Rodgers. It would be interesting to have a view from you as to whether the proposed links are likely to be a Gay Mitchell personal promotion or a serious attempt to build bridges. If the latter then I'm sure we could help with a useful programme in several parts of the Province.

[signed]

W K LINDSAY  
Ext 2266 SH

WKL/RN/9611

**R E S T R I C T E D**

21 October 1992

R E S T R I C T E D

588/91

From: J W Thorp  
British Embassy, Dublin  
  
Date: 16 October 1992  
  
cc: Mr Alston - B  
Mr Watkins - B  
Mr Cooke - B  
Mr Farr, RID - B

Mr May - B



POSSIBLE LINKS BETWEEN LORD MAYORS OF DUBLIN AND BELFAST

1. Mike Maxwell's minute of 24 August to you unfortunately went to ground here. HMA is to see the Lord Mayor of Dublin on 19 October, to extend an invitation to visit the City of London. Mr Mitchell is certain to raise again the question of contacts with Belfast and Northern Ireland in general.

2. We would of course have to consider the impact of a visit by the Dublin Lord Mayor to Northern Ireland in the talks process (though the President's visit to Northern Ireland last month seemed to have no effect on the latter). But the purpose of John McKervill's minute of 20 August was to ask the attitude of the Lord Mayor of Belfast to possible links - either a visit north by Mitchell or south from Belfast. Unless you see objection, we would be grateful if you could quickly sound out the Lord Mayor of Belfast's office as to what their attitudes to a visit might be. The point raised by Mike Maxwell, which implies that the Lord of Mayor of Belfast should have a veto on any visit by Mitchell to Northern Ireland, is a separate, but essentially secondary, issue.

3. Whether he would like to be involved in negotiations for the Irish Olympic medal winners may be declined as he has a prior engagement and no invitation could not be accepted.

4. Nonetheless we should be grateful if you could make an approach to the Lord Mayor's office to get his reaction to the possibility of a visit and, if he could not countenance that, to find out what other ways, if any, he would like to see links between the two cities improved.

R E S T R I C T E D  
R E S T R I C T E D

21 October 1992

RESTRICTED

583/91

From: J McKervill  
British Embassy, Dublin

Date: 20 August 1992

cc: Mr Alston - B  
Mr Cooke - B  
Mr Maxwell - B  
Mr Farr - B

Mr Peter May  
PAB - B

POSSIBLE LINKS BETWEEN LORD MAYORS OF DUBLIN AND BELFAST

I think it all turns on the ~~Watkins~~ + really the  
attitude of the Ditty. If we want + really he  
were to arrange a programme or if he wants  
after he had decided against contact, were in progress?  
that would be seen as a clear at that time?  
affront to Ditty (+ others). It would be v. hard  
to arrange a visit similar in N without a visit w/<sup>1/2</sup>

1. We spoke on 17 August about a call which HMA made on Gay ~~to the City Hall~~ 24.8  
Mitchell, newly elected Lord Mayor of Dublin, on 13 August during  
which Mr Mitchell said that he was very keen to improve contacts  
with Belfast and with Northern Ireland in general. In particular he  
said that he would be grateful if we felt able to sound out the Lord  
Mayor of Belfast on possible links - for example a visit North by  
himself or South from Belfast. A note of Mitchell's conversation  
with the Ambassador is being sent by the next unclassified bag.

2. Your initial reaction on 17 August was to suggest that the  
present Lord Mayor of Belfast would be unlikely to have much truck  
with such a proposal. Certainly, his stance in refusing to invite  
Carruth to the civic reception for McCullagh last week gives some  
indication of his position. When sounded out by Mitchell about  
whether he would like to be invited to the Dublin celebrations for  
the Irish olympic medal winners Ditty declined on the basis that he  
had a prior engagement and an invitation could not be accepted.

3. Nonetheless we should be grateful if you could make an approach  
to the Lord Mayor's office to get his reaction to the possibility of  
a visit and, if he could not countenance that, to find out what  
other ways, if any, he would like to see links between the two  
cities improved.

RESTRICTED

ASST  
SEC 24 AUG 1992  
CENT SEC

UNDER/ 577/8  
SEC  
24AUG1992  
CENT SEC



R E S T R I C T E D

Mitchell told the Ambassador that he wanted to pay a visit to Northern Ireland perhaps before the end of September and perhaps with his family, which might be tourism based, for example some fishing or a trip to the Glens of Antrim. He felt however there is a chance that political pressure might be put on Willy Haye not to see Mitchell because of the potential embarrassment it might cause Ditty, if the latter chose not to see him.

5. I should also be grateful for your and Mike Maxwell's views on what we might be able to set up for Mitchell in, say, the housing, environment, recreational and health fields if he undertook a visit to Northern Ireland. It might be possible to organise a useful visit for the Lord Mayor of Dublin even if his Belfast counterpart was unwilling to see him.

(SIGNED on behalf of)

J McKervill

R E S T R I C T E D