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S314/94 J13.9.94

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FROM: A M DODDS  
ESL  
12 SEPTEMBER 1994

38/10 secret  
14/9

N.B.  
Copies faxed  
to \* on  
13/09/94 MRP.

~~Mr Gewecke~~

- cc: PS/PUS (L&B) -B
- PS/Mr Fell -B
- \* Mr Loughran
- \* Mr Semple
- Mr Thomas O/R -B
- Mr Watkins -B
- Mr Bell -B
- \* Mr Gibson, DED
- \* Mr Jardine, DFP PPRU
- Mr Maccabe -B
- HMA Dublin -B
- Mr Archer, RID -B

Mr Teague  
Mrs Cullbert 16/9  
Mrs Galt  
Mr Archer  
wider and get wider...  
14/9

Mr Maxwell \*

**PROPOSED VISIT TO NORTHERN IRELAND BY SENIOR ECONOMIC OFFICIALS FROM AMERICAN EMBASSY 28 AND 29 SEPTEMBER 1994**

As you know, I have been approached about a possible visit to Northern Ireland by Mr Gewecke, the Economic Minister at the American Embassy in London (Tel: 071-408-8011; Fax: 071-409-1637) and his colleague Mr Jim Elliott, who has a specialist interest in macro economic issues. Mr Gewecke, who has had recent contact with Mr Bell and Mr Archer on other matters, stressed that any visit of this kind was for the American Consul General in Belfast, Mr Val Martinez. However, he thought it worth asking the NIO informally for advice on a possible programme of visits and contacts before going through the normal channels. He and Mr Elliott aimed to take the first flight to Northern Ireland on the morning of 28 September, stay the night and return during the evening of 29 September. There was therefore scope for two lunches and a dinner. Because of the short time available, they intended to confine themselves to Belfast, or at any rate the Eastern side of the Province, though he fully appreciated that there was much to see in Londonderry and the north-west generally.

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2. There were three thematic questions to be explored:

- i) How does the Northern Ireland economy work and what internal and external factors were the main driving forces?
- ii) How was private investment in the economy progressing and what were the opportunities for stimulating further such investment?
- iii) What differences and improvements might be expected in the event of a sustained peace?

3. I said that we would do everything possible to facilitate such a visit and I explained that the main players as far as government was concerned would be DED, DFP and, of course, yourselves at Central Secretariat, who coordinated all Northern Ireland Departmental interests. Although I referred to IDB and LEDU, I stressed that responsibility for both these organisations lay in the first instance with DED. I also thought it should be possible to set up a modest programme of visits, discussions, two working lunches and a working Dinner, though obviously I needed to consult colleagues.

4. In view of Mr Gewecke's seniority, I am sure we will wish to be as helpful as possible though, I repeat, the formal responsibility for organising any programme must surely lie with the Consul General's Office. We are only in the business of providing names; it may not be possible at this late stage to field a Minister, though it would obviously be most helpful if Mr Tim Smith could meet them, even briefly. Doubtless we will also be considering Mr Loughran and Mr Gibson; and it occurred to me that it might be useful for Mr Elliott - in view of his specialist interest - to have a session with Edgar Jardine at PPRU. The Americans are also very interested in meeting the private sector, including banking, accountancy and representatives of successful business and industrial enterprises.

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5. I will be most grateful if you could let me, or in my absence Alan Dunn, have a few names at your convenience.

(Signed)

**A M DODDS**

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