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FROM: A M DODDS
ESL
3 NOVEMBER 1994

cc

PS/SofS (L&B) - B
PS/Michael Ancram (L&B) - B
PS/Mr Moss - B
PS/PUS (L&B) - B
PS/Mr Fell - B
Mr Thomas - B
Mr Bell - B
Mr Gibson, DED - B
Mr Maxwell - B
Mr Maccabe - B
Mr Stephens - B
Mr Brooker - B
Mr Margetts - B
Mr Beeton - B
Mr Lamont, RID - B

MR WATKINS - B

US AID PACKAGE

I have had another call from Mike Glover, the First Secretary covering economic affairs at the American Embassy in London. He was mainly interested in hearing our reaction to President Clinton's announcement yesterday of the £12 million aid package. In spite of today's Guardian headline, I expressed cautious pleasure at the President's generosity. Glover said that there had been "big conflict" between London and the Dublin Embassy over demands by the Irish Ambassador to have references in the statement to the "island of Ireland" rather than Northern Ireland. Indeed, passion had reached a point where four letter words were being exchanged!

2. The President's conference was now being publicly aimed at attracting trade and investment "in Ireland" and would be held in April next year. But Glover emphasised that, balancing this, the US Commerce Secretary Ronald Brown, will lead a delegation to the Economic Development Conference in Belfast being hosted by the Prime Minister next month. Although it seems that Brown will

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travel to this via Dublin, Glover still thinks it significant that he is attending the Prime Minister's Conference in Northern Ireland and, clearly, he wished us to understand that this represented a real victory for his Embassy. He also said that they had been ^{from} successful in shooting down most of the wilder ideas emanating upon the Dublin Embassy.

3. He remains deeply interested in any information we can give him about our December Conference. In particular, he wondered if tourism was to be a major feature. If so, he asked if there would be merit in including senior US airline executives in Mr Brown's entourage. He implied that it might be possible to encourage more direct flights from the US to Belfast International. If we were to get the right people to come, then invitations would need to be issued within the next week. Perhaps you, or Mr Gibson, could advise me on how to respond.

4. The other question was how to select the right "symbolic visits" which Mr Brown might make while he is in Northern Ireland. If, for example, he was seen making a trip to the Giants Causeway, Glover felt this could have a very beneficial effect. Again, I am not sure who is putting together Mr Brown's programme, but obviously high profile trips to our main tourist attractions could be very helpful, if carefully handled. Much depends on the amount of time he is actually going to stay in Northern Ireland and, given the time of year, the weather!

5. We can keep in touch on the follow up to these inquiries informally, but it is interesting that Glover was anxious to convey to us that he and his colleagues in London were very much the good guys in all of this.

(signed)

A M DODDS

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