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*and to W. Tom letter
TWP 2/304/2*

Bernadette Devlin and Northern Ireland

I reported in my letter to you of 25 August that the three members of the Irish-American Action Association who were arrested for trespass, after they had refused to leave our outer office on 22 August following on a sit-in, would be prosecuted. They have now been duly charged in the local court for trespass and unlawful assembly and have elected to have a jury trial. Our Legal Adviser, William Diedrich, who throughout has co-operated with us wholeheartedly and very efficiently, says that the matter is now in the hands of the District Attorney and it is now a question of the People of the State of California versus the three accused Irish, O'Donoghue, Cotter and O'Connor. The D.A. and our Legal Adviser will handle everything connected with the trial which, according to the San Francisco CHRONICLE, will begin on 4 September.

2. Meanwhile we had a demonstration by the Irish-American Association outside my house for about an hour on Tuesday 26 August when the Ambassador and Mrs. Freeman were here. According to the police, who were taking extra precautions for the occasion, there were 127 demonstrators (including about 6 kids). The demonstration was well supervised and no violence or other trouble occurred. I was having a party for the office staff at the time so that they could meet H.E. and Mrs. Freeman. After the demonstration, two reporters from the San Francisco CHRONICLE and the San Francisco EXAMINER called in to see me for an interview. The Ambassador also agreed to have a talk with them and the interview passed off very amicably.

3. The next excitement was Bernadette's arrival in town on Thursday 28 August for a one-day fund-raising campaign. As you may have heard, she spoke at Berkeley in the morning to a 2000 strong audience of SDS and the like, exchanging clenched-fist salutes with them; then she spoke to a fund-raising lunch in San Francisco; then addressed a meeting of the Irish-American Action Association and the Citizens for Irish Justice; then went on the air (live) in the KQED public

T.A.K. Elliott, Esq., C.M.G.,
British Embassy
Washington, D.C.

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service television programme "Newsroom"; then attended a fund-raising cocktail party reception at the Hunt Conrads' home in Pacific Avenue (a liberal San Francisco family), where the co-hosts were Mr. and Mrs. (Jessica Mitford) Robert Treuhart of Oakland and a friend of mine, Mrs. Sally Lowengut Hellyer. Mrs. Hellyer invited me to the party and was prepared to pay my \$10.00 entrance money for the Bernadette fighting (or rather non-fighting) fund, but I did not go as Bernadette by then was making a ridiculous call for a boycott of British goods and denouncing the British Government. Mrs. Hellyer told me the next day that the party raised about \$1,800.00 for the fund.

4. Finally on the same evening, Bernadette addressed a motley group at the ILWU Hall, where Mayor Alioto greeted her and gave her a stock "golden" key to the City of San Francisco plus a personal cheque for \$500.00. Obviously he wanted to woo the Irish vote, but personally I feel that it was unwise for him to enter the game in this way and to get involved in the Irish problem, instead of remaining neutral and impartial. However, Mayor Lindsay of New York had set a good precedent for him, I suppose. Alioto was away the previous day (27 August) on leave when I took H.E. to call at City Hall (we saw Supervisor Ronald Pelosi) and it seems a bit odd to me that he could not have made the effort to be at City Hall to receive the British Ambassador, when he could do it for the young rebel Northern Ireland M.P. However, one has to be rather cynical about local American politics and Alioto's performance on this occasion certainly conformed to the cynical view. (I hope that he turns up to the premiere of the Royal Film here on 3 September which we are showing in the Bohemian Club. He has said he will).

5. Bernadette may have netted something of the order of \$5000.00 in her one-day campaign here - not bad going I suppose. I think she was distinctly rattled by the rumours going around that some of the money would be used for buying arms for the IRA, and she was unable to make a very convincing explanation of how the money would be used (the Ambassador touched lightly on this at his TV and Press Conference when asked about Bernadette's activities). Incidentally, we have had a good many 'phone calls at the office from bewildered British nationals (some Orange men and women included) expressing anger and dismay at Bernadette's behaviour and anti-British attitudes. Some think that, as an M.P. at Westminster, she ought to be impeached! The press on the whole has been fairly

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objective about Bernadette and the Irish question, though naturally it has made quite a bit of play over Bernadette's youthful charisma.

6. An interesting footnote on which to conclude. My Irish colleague, James Kirwan, was sent back to his post here by his Government after only 10 days' leave in Ireland. He went on leave about 3 August expecting to be away two months and was back about 14 August. I haven't had a chance to talk to him yet, but he is quoted (probably misquoted) in the San Francisco CHRONICLE of 27 August as saying "Londonderry is part of the territory we claim, but it is now under British rule."

J.O. Lloyd

Copied to:

A.A.E. Franklin,
Los Angeles.

C.D. Wiggin,
FCO London

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