

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. report	U.S. government report (1 page)	03/10/1998	P1/b(1)
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003a. report	Re: Meeting With Northern Ireland Political Leaders (6 pages)	03/16/1998	P1/b(1)
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003j. report	U.S. government report (1 page)	03/10/1998	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 20038

FOLDER TITLE:

Ireland [1]

2013-0534-S

rv1582

RESTRICTION CODES

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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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file No 1 Ireland

Information Memo on the Northern Ireland Peace Talks

The focus on the Northern Ireland peace process has moved to the United States for St. Patrick's Day. The decisive phase of the negotiations begins next Monday in Belfast. Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern have mid-April as the target for completion. With an eye on the approaching storm of the marching season, Mo Mowlam is determined to drive the process forward and is setting up a more intensive work schedule, and planning for a possible move to a secluded location within Northern Ireland for the final weeks.

Sinn Fein will be back at the talks Monday following an 18-day expulsion that ended March 9 due to IRA murders in February. Adams met Tony Blair last Thursday prior to announcing that he intended to return to the table. Prior to that, he published an article laying out a tough negotiating position, but one that acknowledged a united Ireland was not an outcome. This has been generally viewed as a significant development in preparing republicans for this eventuality. The key questions are whether Sinn Fein and the Unionists will stay to the end of the process due to the key issue: extent of Dublin's role in Northern Ireland affairs.

Key issues: The talks are organized in three areas: Strand 1 (power-sharing in Northern Ireland); Strand 2 (All Ireland institutions); and Strand 3 (arrangements between the UK and Ireland).

- **Strand 1:** Northern Ireland assembly -- the protagonists are SDLP and UUP, with Sinn Fein refusing so far to engage as that would signal caving in on an united Ireland. Hume and Trimble are far apart on the powers (legislative role) and structures of the assembly (accountability), though agreement has been reached on a system of proportional representation that would preclude one party gaining total dominance over another as happened in the last NI assembly. These difference can be worked out.
- **Strand 2:** North-South bodies -- the most difficult area where Adams and Hume are the demandeurs and Trimble obstinate in not engaging productively. The UUP feels that making progress on the equality agenda lessens the need to make concessions that would give Dublin a say in matters affecting Northern Ireland. Fundamentally they fear this diminishes their sovereignty as part of the United Kingdom. Dublin has declared it is prepared to drop constitutional provisions laying claim to Northern Ireland, but as part of a deal for strong all-Ireland bodies. Trimble pocketed that concession and continues to

resist joining consensus on the powers and purpose of the bodies.

- **Strand 3:** United Kingdom - Ireland relations -- several ideas have been presented ranging from a renewal of the Anglo-Irish agreement that set up a number of consultative bodies to a council of the islands in the Atlantic (IONA), or Celtic Fringe, as Senator Moynahan called it. The governments are solely involved in this exercise, which is seen as helping to give cover to concessions in Strand 1 and Strand 2.

Violence: Groups and individuals opposed to any kind of settlement will step up violence as the negotiations near conclusion. The IRA will have difficulties keeping some of members on board; a recent mortar attack suggested that the CIRA has access to IRA supplies. Ervine stayed home to ride herd on his affiliated Loyalist paramilitaries.

Timetable: London and Dublin are shooting for a mid-April date for finishing the agreement, followed by a May 22 referendum. Elections to the NI assembly would take place the week of May 18.

Overview of Meetings with the party leaders: Compromise and courage by Adams and Trimble are essential for an agreement. The others require stroking for their supporting roles. Our common message to all is that:

- **A truly historical moment is at hand demanding that individual leaders rise above party politics to meet the challenge. It is time to go the distance; this chance won't come again.**
- **They can count on the President to facilitate an agreement and support implementation of a just and lasting settlement.**

Mo Mowlam: Mo is the star of the show. She has broken every taboo and precedent to show Sinn Fein that there is something worth having from a peace process that leaves Northern Ireland in the United Kingdom. She has also endured bitter abuse from the Unionists in the process and suffers from damaging leaks out of her own bureaucracy. But she has forged on, taking political risks and making a down payment on Sinn Fein's equality agenda. Police reform, employment equality, redress of past wrongs (Bloody Sunday) and prisoner issues have been her currency in this market. These haven't gone far enough for Gerry Adams, but they are making a difference in nationalists' daily lives, and in the context of a settlement, this agenda has real potential to completely transform Northern Ireland as a hospitable and prosperous place for Irish Catholics. **You should acknowledge our appreciation for her energy and nerve. You should ask her for a summary of her milestones for "the road to the final**

four.," e.g. schedule of meetings, drafting deadlines and plans to sequester the parties.

The Northern Ireland Women's Coalition: Monica McWilliams represent a very small group of voters, but have the eighth seat at the table in the all party talks and have made an important contribution to the peace process -- in the face of horrendous sexist verbal abuse by the Unionist (Protestant) parties. They are non-sectarian and represent no particular agenda other than to secure an outcome that ensures a peaceful, just society. They have excellent insights into the objectives and tactics of the larger participants -- that David Trimble (UUP) is prepared to accept a stalemate that leaves power in the hands of the British parliament, as now, if that means not having to share it with the nationalists (read Gerry Adams and Sinn Fein). However, he is eager to get a commitment from Dublin to relinquish a claim on Northern Ireland (currently in the constitution), hence the grounds for a deal. You should acknowledge the NIWC's contribution to peace and ask for specific things we could do to help solidify the peace after an agreement is reached.

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Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
003j. report	U.S. government report (1 page)	03/10/1998	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 20038

FOLDER TITLE:

Ireland [1]

2013-0534-S
ry1582

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO: THE PRESIDENT
THE FIRST LADY

WHAT: RECEPTION IN HONOR OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF IRELAND

WHEN: TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 1998

NOTES: APPROX 600 GUESTS/POOL PRESS FOR REMARKS/
BUSINESS ATTIRE

FROM: CAPRICIA MARSHALL, LAURA SCHWARTZ

7:05 p.m. THE PRESIDENT proceeds to the Dip Room.

7:10 p.m. Photo of THE PRESIDENT and Lord Alederdice in Dip Room.

7:12 p.m. THE PRESIDENT proceeds to the Residence.

7:15 p.m. The Prime Minister and Ms. Larkin arrive the South Portico and are greeted by Ambassador of Protocol Mel French and Social Secretary Capricia Marshall.

7:20 p.m. THE PRESIDENT and THE FIRST LADY greet the Prime Minister and host a small reception in the Yellow Oval Room.

-Ambassador Kennedy Smith, Mr. William Kennedy Smith, Mr. Steven Smith & Ms. Amanda Smith
-Ambassador Sean and Mrs. Bernadette O'Huiginn

7:35 p.m. THE PRESIDENT and THE FIRST LADY, The Prime Minister and Ms. Larkin proceed to the Map Room lead by bagpiper, Dr. Richard Blair via the Grand Staircase for receiving line.

7:40 p.m. Receiving line begins in the Map Room.
NOTE: Receiving line flows from Map Room through Diplomatic Reception Room and out the China Room.

8:55 p.m. Upon conclusion of the receiving line, THE PRESIDENT and THE FIRST LADY, The Prime Minister and Ms. Larkin proceed to the State Floor via the

elevator. Dr. Richard Blair, bagpiper, will lead the four Principals down the Cross Hall into the East Room. The four Principals will be seated at a cabaret table to listen to the entertainment.

East Room Entertainment for Principals

Note: Times below will be based on the pace of the receiving line

- 8:55 p.m. Chorus stops briefly while principals are escorted down the Cross Hall by the bagpiper into the East Room.
- 9:00-9:05 p.m. Harmony Tour Chorus sings one final song for the Principals.
- 9:07-9:15 p.m. Reading by Frank McCourt.
- 9:15-9:20 Final song by Tom Sweeney (song re: Children and Ireland).
- 9:20 p.m. Remarks by Principals.

9:20 p.m. Following the performance, **THE PRESIDENT** and **THE FIRST LADY**, **The Prime Minister** and **Ms. Larkin** proceed to the stage.

THE FIRST LADY makes remarks and introduces **THE PRESIDENT**.

THE PRESIDENT makes remarks and introduces **The Prime Minister**.

The Prime Minister makes brief remarks.

THE PRESIDENT and **THE FIRST LADY** escort **The Prime Minister** and **Ms. Larkin** out of the East Room (*led by the bagpiper*) to the South Portico via the elevator.

9:30 p.m. **THE PRESIDENT** bids farewell to **The Prime Minister** and **Ms. Larkin** at the South Portico.

THE PRESIDENT and **THE FIRST LADY** have the option to return to the State Floor or retire to the Private Residence.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 9, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR MELANNE VERVEER

FROM: JAMES STEINBERG *JS*
SUBJECT: Possible FLOTUS Visit to Belfast to Deliver Joyce
McCartan Memorial Lecture

The NSC (and State) agree that having the First Lady deliver the first Joyce McCartan Lecture at the University of Ulster would send a powerful signal of continued U.S. support for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland. At the right time, a visit by the First Lady could also add momentum to the Belfast peace talks chaired by Senator Mitchell. However, given the current uncertainties in the peace process and upcoming elections in the UK, local elections in Northern Ireland and possible related elections in the Republic, it is difficult to predict with confidence that either late May (in connection with the trip to the Netherlands) or early July (in connection with the Madrid Summit) would be a good time for the First Lady to visit Belfast.

The peace talks are scheduled to reconvene in Belfast June 3, just a few days before the Netherlands trip. If there is an IRA cease-fire, there will be intense controversy surrounding the central question of whether Sinn Fein will be allowed to participate. If the First Lady is there at that time, she could be drawn into that controversy and her message could be overshadowed. The July dates are also problematic because the Orange Order march in Drumcree is to take place July 6. Last year that march led to days of bitter and violent sectarian confrontation in Northern Ireland, affecting road and even air travel. If that happens again, it would be a poor backdrop for the First Lady's lecture.

We understand it is difficult to program a trip to Northern Ireland except in connection with another trip to Europe. However, we believe that the early fall, when the talks are once again in session after the summer recess, is likely to provide a much better time for the First Lady to deliver the McCartan lecture. If at all possible, we recommend that a visit to Belfast be added to a planned trip to another part of the world or that a short separate trip be added to the First Lady's schedule.



UNIVERSITY of
ULSTER

Department of External Affairs

Director of Development: John McCaffrey

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Office of the First Lady
The White House
Washington D.C. 20500

7 February 1997

Dear Melanne:

THE JOYCE McCARTAN MEMORIAL LECTURE

I wanted to bring you up-to-date with our proposed plans to honor the great contribution which the late Joyce McCartan made towards reconciliation in Northern Ireland.

We are proposing to establish a *Joyce McCartan Memorial Lecture* which will have as its general theme the role of *women in peace processes* and which will be complemented by sponsored travel bursaries which will be made available to women researchers in the field of ethnic conflict.

We have discussed this proposal with Joyce's family and husband Seamus, who have no objection to the use of Joyce's name in the title and who support this University of Ulster initiative.

The Vice-Chancellor, Sir Trevor Smith, is especially keen that Mrs. Clinton should give the inaugural lecture here in Belfast, for the number of reasons which you and I discussed during my visit to the White House in December.

I realise how difficult it is at this stage to let us have an indication of what stage in the year might suit Mrs. Clinton's diary. However, I wanted to let you know of the progress which we have made. Any feedback or suggestions which you might want to make will be much appreciated. My fax number is 011 44 1232 368232 - telephone is 011 44 1232 368132.

With every good wish to yourself and to the First Lady.

Sincerely

JOHN McCAFFREY

Advancing Knowledge through Teaching, Learning and Research

Newtownabbey County Antrim BT37 0QB Northern Ireland Telephone: Belfast (01232) 368132 Fax: (01232) 368232
International Tel.: +44 1232 368132 Fax: +44 1232 368232 E.mail: j.mccaffrey@ulst.ac.uk
Campuses: Belfast, Coleraine, Jordanstown, Magee College

*file
Ireland
in trip book
in office*

PREC: PRIORITY CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED SSN: 0402 MSGID: M3009765

PAAUZYUW RUEHBLA0402 3091412-UUUU--RHEHAAX.

ZNR UUUUU ZZH

P 051411Z NOV 97

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

FM: AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9419
RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 0001

INFO: RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 8943
RUEHDL/AMEMBASSY DUBLIN 6571
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK 0001

////////////////// INCOMPLETE MESSAGE //////////////////

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 BELFAST 0402

DEPT FOR RANDY BELL
NSC FOR BUTLER

WHITE HOUSE MELANNE VERVEER, OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY
USIA FOR RANKINE-GALLOWAY
LONDON FOR USIS/SMITH/BURGESS/MACY
LONDON FOR POL/HALL
DUBLIN FOR POL/NORLAND
BISHKEK FOR ADVANCE TEAM

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (CLINTON, HILLARY RODHAM), PREL, PGOV, SCUL, UK, EI
SUBJECT: NORTHERN IRELAND MEDIA REACTION TO THE VISIT OF
THE FIRST LADY

1. THIS REPORT CONCERNS MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE VISIT OF
FIRST LADY HILLARY CLINTON TO NORTHERN IRELAND, OCTOBER
31, 1997.

2. THE THREE MAIN NEWSPAPERS REFERRED TO THROUGHOUT
THIS REPORT HOLD DIFFERING EDITORIAL VIEWS. THIS MAY BE
REFLECTED IN TONE OF THEIR REPORTING:

'NEWS LETTER' - STRONG UNIONIST EDITORIAL POLICY
'IRISH NEWS' - - STRONG NATIONALIST EDITORIAL POLICY
'BELFAST TELEGRAPH' - NEUTRAL TO MODERATE UNIONIST
EDITORIAL POLICY

3. THE VISIT GENERATED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST THROUGHOUT
BROADCAST AND PRINT MEDIA. THE TONE OF REPORTING WAS
OVERWHELMINGLY POSITIVE, AND REFLECTED THE FIRST LADY'S
MESSAGES FOR WOMEN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE UNITED STATES'
ON-GOING SUPPORT FOR THE NORTHERN IRELAND PEACE
PROCESS.

4. HEADLINES ATTACHED TO ARTICLES REPORTING ON THE VISIT INCLUDED:

"HILLARY VOWS SUPPORT FOR PEACE EFFORT" - THE '**BELFAST** TELEGRAPH', OCTOBER 31

"HILLARY'S AMONG FRIENDS" - THE '**BELFAST** TELEGRAPH', OCTOBER 31

"FORGE PEACE NOW URGES FIRST LADY" - THE 'IRISH NEWS', NOVEMBER 1

"FIRST LADY URGES POLITICAL LEADERS TO FOLLOW THE BRAVE EXAMPLE OF THE NORTH'S WOMEN" - THE 'IRISH NEWS', NOVEMBER 1

"FORGE PEACE URGES HILLARY" - THE '**BELFAST** TELEGRAPH', NOVEMBER 1

"HILLARY'S PEACE HOPES" - - THE 'NEWS LETTER', NOVEMBER 1

"HILLARY SEES RAY OF HOPE IN PEACE PROCESS" - THE 'NEWS LETTER', NOVEMBER 3

PREVIEWING THE VISIT

5. PREVIEWING THE FIRST LADY'S VISIT, THE '**BELFAST** TELEGRAPH' OCTOBER 30 RAN WITH THE BANNER HEADLINE: "ALL CLEAR FOR HILLARY. SOLO VISIT WILL HIGHLIGHT PEACE QUEST." AMBASSADOR PHILIP LADER WAS QUOTED: "I THINK MRS. CLINTON'S VISIT MUST BE SEEN IN THE CONTEXT OF HER PERSONAL INTEREST IN THIS, BUT ALSO AN EXPRESSION OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE'S STRONG INTEREST."

6. THE REPORT ALSO NOTED THAT THE FIRST LADY'S VISIT WAS TO BE DIFFERENT IN TONE TO THE NOVEMBER 1995 VISIT BY THE PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY: "MR. LADER ALSO STRESSED THE PRIVATE NATURE OF THIS VISIT, WHICH IS IN STARK CONTRAST TO THE RAZZMATAZZ WHICH HERALDED HER PREVIOUS TRIP....PLANNING FOR THIS VISIT HAS BEEN MUCH MORE LOW KEY WITH THE FIRST LADY KEEN TO PROJECT A MORE PERSONAL TOUCH."

7. IN A PROFILE OF THE FIRST LADY, THE '**BELFAST** TELEGRAPH' OCTOBER 30 WROTE: "SHE IS DELIVERING SPEECHES ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, APPEARING ON TV SAYING 'TURNING 50 DOESN'T BOTHER ME' MAKING COMMERCIALS URGING WOMEN TO HAVE BREAST CANCER SCANS AND PRESIDING OVER A CHILD CARE CONFERENCE."

8. THE REPORT STATED: "INDEED HER **BELFAST** VISIT WILL LIKELY FOCUS...ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN AND YOUTH IN DEMOCRACY AND THE PEACE PROCESS."

9. THE '**BELFAST** TELEGRAPH' OCTOBER 30, ALSO CARRIED AN REPORT REGARDING THE VISIT OF FIRST LADY ELEANOR ROOSEVELT TO **BELFAST** DURING NOVEMBER 1942.

VISIT TO DUBLIN

DIST:

PREC: PRIORITY CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED SSN: **0402** MSGID: M3010693

PAAUZYUW RUEHBLA0402 3091412-UUUU--RHEHAAX.

ZNR UUUUU ZZH

P 051411Z NOV 97

FM AMCONSUL **BELFAST**

FM: AMCONSUL **BELFAST**

TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9420
RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 0002

INFO: RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 8944
RUEHDL/AMEMBASSY DUBLIN 6572
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK 0002

////////////////// INCOMPLETE MESSAGE //////////////////

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 04 **BELFAST 0402**

DEPT FOR RANDY BELL
NSC FOR BUTLER
WHITE HOUSE MELANNE VERVEER, OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY
USIA FOR RANKINE-GALLOWAY
LONDON FOR USIS/SMITH/BURGESS/MACY
LONDON FOR POL/HALL
DUBLIN FOR POL/NORLAND
BISHKEK FOR ADVANCE TEAM

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (CLINTON, HILLARY RODHAM), PREL, PGOV, SCUL, UK, EI
SUBJECT: NORTHERN IRELAND MEDIA REACTION TO THE VISIT
OF THE FIRST LADY

10. PRIOR TO HER VISIT TO **BELFAST**, THE FIRST LADY VISITED DUBLIN. THE 'IRISH NEWS' REPORTED ON HER VISIT, QUOTING THE FIRST LADY: "IN THIS PRECIOUS PEACE WE NOW HAVE ALMOST ALL THE PARTIES IN THIS CONFLICT SITTING DOWN TO DISCUSS THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES.

... WOMEN HAVE PAID A HEAVY PRICE FOR THE SOCIAL TURMOIL THAT HAS BEEN GENERATED AND ARE NOW LEADING THE EFFORT FOR PEACE."

11. THE '**BELFAST** TELEGRAPH' OCTOBER 31 REPORTED ON THE FIRST LADY'S VISIT TO DUBLIN.

WRITING UNDER THE HEADLINE: "HILLARY VOWS SUPPORT FOR PEACE EFFORT" IT WAS REPORTED: "AMERICA'S FIRST LADY HILLARY CLINTON HAS UNDERLINED HER HUSBAND'S COMMITMENT TO THE PEACE PROCESS." THE FIRST LADY WAS

QUOTED: "AMERICA WILL BE WITH YOU AS YOU AS YOU WALK THE ROAD OF PEACE. MAKING PEACE BETWEEN PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT CULTURES IS THE WORK OF A LIFETIME. WE ARE UNDER NO ILLUSION THAT REACHING AN AGREEMENT WILL BE EASY."

12. THE 'NEWS LETTER' WELCOMED THE FIRST LADY'S VISIT IN AN EDITORIAL PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 31: "AMERICA'S FIRST LADY HILLARY CLINTON FLIES INTO NORTHERN IRELAND TODAY ON A GOODWILL MISSION, AIMED AT CONSOLIDATING PEACE AND RECONCILIATION IN THIS POLITICALLY DIVIDED SOCIETY.

...THE GESTURE OF RETURNING TO THESE SHORES WILL ENHANCE THE REPUTATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S WIFE WITH A GREAT MANY PEOPLE IN THE PROVINCE OF ALL CREEDS AND CLASSES. SHE DESERVES A TRADITIONAL ULSTER WELCOME OF WARMTH AND CORDIALITY."

13. THE 'IRISH NEWS' OCTOBER 30 EDITORIALIZED: "TODAY'S VISIT BY MRS. CLINTON IS ON A VERY DIFFERENT SCALE, AND THAT IS APPROPRIATE. HER FIRST VISIT WAS VERY SPECIAL, AND IT WOULD BE FOOLISH TO TRY AND RECREATE THAT SPIRIT."

14. REFERRING TO THE GENERATION 2000 YOUTH CONFERENCE THAT THE FIRST LADY WAS DUE TO ADDRESS, THE 'IRISH NEWS' EDITORIALIZED: "ITS PURPOSE IS TO DRAW UP A YOUTH AGENDA IN THE AREAS OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT FOR THE NEXT MILLENNIUM...THE FIRST LADY KNOWS ALL TOO WELL THAT THEY ARE ISSUES WHICH NEED TO BE ADDRESSED IN HER OWN COUNTRY TOO. AND THEY ARE AREAS WHERE SHE HAS A PERSONAL INTEREST.

ARRIVAL

15. THERE WAS WIDESPREAD COVERAGE OF THE FIRST LADY'S ARRIVAL AT **BELFAST** INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WHERE SHE WAS GREETED BY CATHERINE HAMILL AND DAVID STERRETT, THE TWO CHILDREN WHO INTRODUCED THE PRESIDENT AT MACKIES FACTORY DURING HIS NOVEMBER 1995 VISIT TO **BELFAST**.

16. THE '**BELFAST** TELEGRAPH' WROTE: A CLEARLY MOVED MR. CLINTON LISTENED AS CATHERINE TOLD HOW HER FATHER HAD BEEN SHOT IN A BRUTAL SECTARIAN MURDER. BUT TODAY IT WAS ALL SMILES AS THEY HELPED WELCOME MRS. CLINTON ON HER WHIRLWIND ONE DAY TRIP TO NORTHERN IRELAND."

JOYCE MCCARTAN LECTURE AT UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER.

17. THE FIRST LADY GAVE THE INAUGURAL JOYCE MCCARTAN MEMORIAL LECTURE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER IN MEMORY OF THE **BELFAST** COMMUNITY WORKER SHE MET WITH DURING HER NOVEMBER 1995 VISIT.

18. THE FIRST LADY'S ADDRESS WAS CARRIED LIVE ON BBC RADIO ULSTER DURING THE DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS PROGRAM "TALKBACK".

UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 04 **BELFAST 0402**

DEPT FOR RANDY BELL

NSC FOR BUTLER
WHITE HOUSE MELANNE VERVEER, OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY
USIA FOR RANKINE-GALLOWAY
LONDON FOR USIS/SMITH/BURGESS/MACY
LONDON FOR POL/HALL
DUBLIN FOR POL/NORLAND
BISHKEK FOR ADVANCE TEAM

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (CLINTON, HILLARY RODHAM), PREL, PGOV, SCUL, UK, EI
SUBJECT: NORTHERN IRELAND MEDIA REACTION TO THE VISIT OF THE
FIRST LADY

19. THE 'NEWS LETTER' NOVEMBER 1 REPORTED: "THE
PRESIDENT'S WIFE SAID THE CHANCES OF A SETTLEMENT IN
NORTHERN IRELAND WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN AS PROMISING HAD
IT NOT BEEN FOR THE COURAGE OF THE WOMAN WHO ONCE
SPENT AN HOUR IN HER COMPANY AT A TINY DROP-IN CENTER
CALLED THE LAMPLIGHTER.

20. QUOTING THE FIRST LADY, THE 'NEWS LETTER' WROTE: JOYCE
MCCARTAN DESERVES AS HER REAL LEGACY THAT THE PEACE
PROCESS WILL GO FORWARD. SHE AND ALL THE BRAVE WOMEN
WHO FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS MARCHED, BAKED, PRAYED
DESERVES TO BE HEARD."

THE ARTICLE CONTINUED: "PRESIDENT CLINTON REMAINED
PERSONALLY COMMITTED TO THOSE WHO TOOK RISKS FOR PEACE
IN THE MONTHS AHEAD, SHE (FIRST LADY) SAID."

21. THE FIRST LADY WAS QUOTED: "WHEN PEOPLE WANT PEACE, IT
IS THE OBLIGATION OF POLITICAL LEADERS TO FIND THE
COMMON GROUND WHERE IT CAN THRIVE. THAT REQUIRES
COMPROMISE AND RECONCILIATION. THAT INVOLVES
POSTPONING, OR EVEN GIVING UP ONE'S CHERISHED IDEALS IN
THE BELIEF THAT OTHERS WILL DO THE SAME TO END THE
CONFLICT AND BUILD A BETTER FUTURE."

22. REPORTING ON THE LECTURE THE 'IRISH NEWS', NOVEMBER 1
WROTE: "IRELAND'S POLITICAL LEADERS MUST PAVE THE WAY
FOR PEACE IN THE NORTH, AMERICA'S FIRST LADY URGED
YESTERDAY. ON HER SECOND VISIT HERE, HILLARY CLINTON
CALLED ON ALL SIDES TO 'END A GENERATION OF SENSELESS
KILLING AND FORGE A LASTING PEACE."

23. ALLUDING TO A TEA POT PRESENTED TO HER DURING HER
MEETING WITH JOYCE MCCARTAN, THE FIRST LADY WAS QUOTED:
"THERE WILL BE THOSE WHO WOULD RATHER SMASH THE TEA
POT THAN FILL IT WITH PIPING HOT TEA AND SIT DOWN TO HAVE A
CONVERSATION."

GENERATION 2000 CONFERENCE, HOSTED BY THE YOUTH COUNCIL
NORTHERN IRELAND AT THE WATERFRONT HALL, **BELFAST**.

24. THE FIRST LADY ATTENDED THE GENERATION 2000
CONFERENCE, TAKING PART IN A ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE
WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADDRESSING THE CONFERENCE.

25. THE 'IRISH NEWS' NOVEMBER 1 REPORTED: "THE YOUTH OF NORTHERN IRELAND WERE YESTERDAY CHALLENGED BY AMERICAN FIRST LADY HILLARY CLINTON TO MAKE A MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTION TO THE SEARCH FOR A LASTING PEACE SETTLEMENT.

26. THE 'NEWS LETTER' NOVEMBER 1 REPORTED: "US FIRST LADY HILLARY CLINTON TOLD THOUSANDS OF ULSTER YOUNG PEOPLE YESTERDAY: "I CAN SEE IN THE FACES BEFORE ME, EVIDENCE OF WHY PEACE CAN AND MUST BE YOUR DESTINY."

THE ARTICLE CONTINUED: "MRS. CLINTON RECEIVED A TUMULTUOUS WELCOME FROM THE CROWD AND TOLD THEM: ' IF YOU BELIEVE IN YOURSELVES YOU CAN STAND AGAINST THE BARRIERS THAT HAVE BEEN BUILT TO IMPRISON YOU, AND IF ADULTS WILL LISTEN AND EMPOWER YOU, YOU CAN BE THE LEADERS ALL OF US NEED."

LONDON

THE FIRST LADY TRAVELED TO LONDON FOLLOW VISITS TO DUBLIN AND **BELFAST**.

27. THE 'NEWS LETTER' NOVEMBER 3 REPORTED ON THE FIRST LADY'S REMARKS AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY: "HILLARY CLINTON SPOKE OF HER HOPES FOR THE PEACE PROCESS IN A

DIST:

<^DIST>
SIT: NSC

PREC: PRIORITY CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED SSN: **0402** MSGID: M3011966

PAAUZYUW RUEHBLA0402 3091412-UUUU--RHEHAAX.

ZNR UUUUU ZZH (TAO)

P 051411Z NOV 97

FM AMCONSUL **BELFAST**

FM: AMCONSUL **BELFAST**

TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9422
RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 0004

INFO: RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 8946
RUEHDL/AMEMBASSY DUBLIN 6574
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK 0004

////////////////// INCOMPLETE MESSAGE //////////////////

UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 04 **BELFAST 0402**

DEPT FOR RANDY BELL
NSC FOR BUTLER
WHITE HOUSE MELANNE VERVEER, OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY
USIA FOR RANKINE-GALLOWAY
LONDON FOR USIS/SMITH/BURGESS/MACY
LONDON FOR POL/HALL
DUBLIN FOR POL/NORLAND
BISHKEK FOR ADVANCE TEAM

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (CLINTON, HILLARY RODHAM), PREL, PGOV, SCUL, UK, EI
SUBJECT: NORTHERN IRELAND MEDIA REACTION TO THE VISIT OF
THE FIRST LADY

SPEECH AT THE US EMBASSY IN LONDON YESTERDAY."

28. THE FIRST LADY WAS QUOTED: "ALTHOUGH THE EUPHORIA OF
THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP NEARLY TWO YEARS AGO IS NOT PRESENT,
THERE CERTAINLY IS A HOPEFULNESS AND, PERHAPS, A MORE
PRAGMATIC SENSE OF WHAT IT WILL TAKE TO BRING THE PARTIES
TOGETHER."

EDITORIAL

29. THE 'NEWS LETTER' NOVEMBER 1 REVIEWED THE FIRST LADY'S
VISIT IN AN EDITORIAL HEADED: "HILLARY'S MESSAGE". THE
EDITORIAL STATED: "ANOTHER PRESIDENTIAL LINK MADE THE
NEWS YESTERDAY - THE VISIT TO NORTHERN IRELAND OF FIRST
LADY HILLARY CLINTON - AND WHILE IT TURNED OUT TO BE A
DECIDEDLY LOW KEY EVENT, MUCH GOODWILL WAS GENERATED
TO SUSTAIN THE POSITIVE ULSTER / UNITED STATES LINK WHICH

HAS BEEN CLEARLY EVIDENT OVER RECENT YEARS.

"MRS. CLINTON SPOKE OF GENUINE AMERICAN HOPES FOR PEACE AND STABILITY IN OUR SOCIETY. THE WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THOSE ENGAGED IN RECONCILIATION WORK IN THIS DIVIDED COMMUNITY APPEARED TO STRIKE A CHORD WITH PEOPLE YOUNG AND OLD PRESENT AT HER TWO PUBLIC LECTURES."

STEPHENS

DIST:



M.A. Peters

File Ireland

*Call to hear -
re: women's event
under
PM Ex*

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

July 23, 1995

Dear Mrs. Clinton,

I was so very glad to hear at last the scheduled dates for the President's and your trip to London, Dublin and Northern Ireland. I am especially glad that you will be accompanying the President and I am writing in the hopes that you will consider a separate schedule from your husband while you are on this trip.

The women of Ireland are strong and have had a huge influence in the development of family life in that island. It is no fiction that men in Ireland did not marry until quite late in life, in part because of matriarchal influence. But it is only recently that women in the Republic and in Northern Ireland have sought to have a role in endeavors outside the home, and in trying to do so, they have met with great resistance.

The situation in the Republic is far better than it was twenty years ago. Today, there are women political leaders (Mary Harney is the head of the Progressive Democratic Party and there are many women who are members of the Dial), journalists (Mary Holland of the Irish Times is one of the finest reporters of the "troubles" in Northern Ireland), and government ministers, as well as women in the traditional fields of education, health, social services, and the arts. Mary Robinson's election as President has done much to improve opportunities for women, but, I regret to say, there is still some resentment about women in areas that traditionally were regarded as men's preserves, particularly in the business world.

The situation is much worse in Northern Ireland. Until now, about the only area open to women -- aside from religion, education and nursing -- was the trade union movement, and some remarkable women have emerged from that movement. The one other area where women have emerged as leaders is in the development of grass roots community organizations. Many of these organizations were developed in opposition to the violence in Northern Ireland, and many of these courageous

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton,
The First Lady,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

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leaders, like Joyce McCarten of the Women's Information Drop In Center, started these organizations after members of their families were killed in the "troubles."

 The women in the North are now terribly worried that, with a cessation of violence, their roles and work will be marginalized, and that they will be forced to return to more traditional occupations in the home. This is where you could make a very real contribution. As you demonstrated on your remarkable trip to South Asia, you can, in the most discreet way, give strong legitimacy to these women by quietly meeting with them. I do hope and heartily recommend that you will be able to devote some of your time in Ireland to that purpose.

I have had the great privilege of meeting some of the women leaders in Northern Ireland and the Republic and I would be very glad to sketch out for you some thoughts on meetings that might be appropriate for you. For example, two organizations that have wonderful merit and take no political position on the difficulties in the North are Widows Against Violence Empower and Families Against Violence and Intimidation. What a wonderful signal it would send if you could meet with these women.

I would like to offer my help to you as you begin to plan for your trip. It would be a wonderful honor to provide to you with the background of many of the wonderful women and men you may meet from both the nationalist and unionist traditions in Dublin and Northern Ireland. For example, John Hume is honored as a great nationalist politician throughout Ireland, but in his home town of Derry, it is his wife Pat who is loved. While John has commuted between Derry, London and Strasbourg to do his best for the people he represents, it is Pat who has headed his constituents' office in Derry. It is Pat who has been there to console the families of people martyred in the terrible struggle, to help them find jobs, and to give them encouragement. It is Pat who knows every face in that city and has never wavered in her efforts to assist. I know that you have met Pat -- on this trip I do hope that you have an opportunity to learn more about her and the other remarkable women of the island of Ireland.

The Irish are thrilled that they will be able to host you and the President after Thanksgiving -- my own hope is that you will have a trip rich in experience and satisfaction and which will further add to the work you and your husband have done to encourage peace there.

Sincerely,

Rosemary O'Neill

Rosemary O'Neill

SUGGESTED GUEST LIST
TEA/COFFEE IN HONOR OF HILLARY RODHAM
WOMEN'S DROP-IN CENTER CLINTON
BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND

*file
Ireland*

Joyce McCarten
Catholic, Married to a Protestant
Joyce's son was killed by the IRA who believed that he was a
policy informer
Women's Drop-In Center
Belfast

Vivienne Anderson
Director of the North Belfast Community Development Centre
283 Cavehill Road
Belfast BT15 5EY (home)
22 Cliftonville Road
Belfast BT14 6JT (office)
0232-711310 (home)
0232-754513 (office)
0232-352682 (office)

May Blood
Trade Union Leader
Founder Member and Treasurer of the Blackmountain Action Group
7 Blackmountain Place
Belfast BT 13 3YY
0232-326514

Kate Campbell
Neighborhood community worker in Belfast
43 Ashley Avenue
Belfast BT9 7BT
Tel. 232-6644195
232-76899 (fax)

Pat Campbell
Lost youngest son through the Troubles in January 1992
Twenty year member of Women Together for Peace
Ponderosa
29 Killeaton Crescent
Killeaton, Derriaghy
Belfast BT17 9HB, County Antrim
Tel. 232-603324
Fax. 232-665355

Kate Cochran
Founder Member of the Women's Group of Brownlow Craigavon and
Member Brownlow Victims Support Scheme
108 Drumgor Park
Brownlow Carigavon BT65 4AH
Tel. 762-321133 (home)
232-232587 (office)
232-312216 (fax)

Cherry Dickson
Women's Officer with the Magherafelt Women's Group
Treasurer of the Presbyterian Women's Association
23 Dunlogan Road
Draperstown, Magherafelt
648-28310 (home)
648-31032 ext. 214 (office)
648-31033 (fax)

Tracie Dougherty
Windsor Women's Centre
12 Euterpe Street
Belfast BT12 5PS
232-235451 (office and Fax)

Pauline Hegney
Widowed in 1991 by the violence
Member of Widows Against Violence Empower
11 Friendly Way
Belfast BT7 29U
Tel. 232-242053

Isobel Holmes,
Former Chair of the Women's Forum of Northern Ireland
The Standing Conference of Women's Organizations
"Holmridge"
8 Moy Road
Dungannon, County Tyrone BT7 6BS
Tel. 86-87-22955

Teresa Kelly
extensive trade union experience
Administrator of a Women's Centre
3 Baronet Street
Derry, BT48 7NT
0504-263263 (home)
0504-267672 (office)
0504-263263 (fax)

Una Ni Mheavain
Falls Road Women's Centre
265 Falls Road
Belfast

Pat Mosgrove
Refuge Worker/Team Leader
Women's Aid, Drumquin
Drumquin, County Tyrone
0662-898-118 (home)
0662-245-998 (office)

Irene Murphy
Community Development Work
Shankill Area of Belfast
2 Linden Gardens
Belfast
Tel. 232-748-309 (home)
232-236-839 (office)
232-333-864 (fax)

Bronagh Hinds
Director
Ulster People's College
30 Adelaide Park
Belfast BT9 6FY
Tel. 44-1232-665-161
Fax. 443-1232-668-111



Department of Social Development
and World Peace

John L. Carr
Secretary

3211 4th Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20017-1194
Tel: (202) 541-3181 Fax: (202) 541-3339 TELEX 7400424

May 24, 1995

**CATHOLIC CARDINAL AND PRESBYTERIAN LEADER
RENEW CALL FOR FAIR EMPLOYMENT AND INVESTMENT
AT WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON NORTHERN IRELAND;
INTRODUCE BUSINESS EDUCATION INITIATIVE**

Cardinal Cahal Daly, president of the Irish Catholic Bishops Conference, and the **Very Reverend Dr. John Dunlop**, former moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, are urging participants at the White House Conference for Trade and Investment in Ireland to support both new investment and strong fair employment measures.

Cardinal Daly and Dr. Dunlop have been invited to participate in the White House Conference because of their leading role in the Churches' Call for Fair Employment and Investment in Northern Ireland, an unprecedented joint initiative of the Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Methodist, and Anglican churches in Ireland and their counterparts in the United States.

Cardinal Daly and Dr. Dunlop are giving invocations at the White House Conference's opening dinner on May 24 and are on a panel on investment and fair employment on May 26.

The Call for Fair Employment and Investment, which explicitly links the need for both fair employment and investment, represents a significant step forward in developing common ground across religious lines on the need for renewed efforts to combat historic discrimination and high levels of unemployment in a deeply divided society.

The Call also encourages active and constructive support on the part of Americans for more investment, more employment and more fair employment, linked to support for peaceful progress toward political solutions and respect for the diverse traditions in Northern Ireland.

MORE

At a press conference on Wednesday, May 24, Cardinal Daly and Dr. Dunlop introduced a practical follow up to the Call -- a new Business Education Initiative (BEI). The Initiative is a collaborative project of the Inter-Church Committee on Northern Ireland, the Presbyterian, Methodist and Catholic college associations, the Northern Ireland Employment and Training Agency, and the International Fund for Ireland. It will bring 130 Catholic and Protestant students to 60 Presbyterian, Catholic and Methodist colleges in the United States for one year of business study. Almost 60% of these students are from socially disadvantaged areas.

The Call for Fair Employment and Investment, issued in 1994, has been supported by President Bill Clinton, Prime Minister John Major, Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring.

The Call also has received the support of a wide range of civil rights, trade union, political and community interests in the United States and Ireland.

U.S. groups supporting the Call include: the congressional Friends of Ireland, the AFL-CIO, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility, and the Irish National Caucus.

In Northern Ireland, the Call has been welcomed by, among others, the Fair Employment Commission, the Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights, representatives of the SDLP and Alliance Parties, the Northern Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, numerous corporations, and the Ulster Newsletter.

The Call is enclosed. Copies of the letters and statements in support of the Call are available upon request.

As Catholic Bishop in Belfast from 1982-1990 and Primate of All Ireland since 1990, Cardinal Daly has been a leading voice against violence and injustice, and for peace and tolerance in Northern Ireland. Dr. Dunlop, one of the most respected Protestant leaders in Northern Ireland, has been clear in articulating the legitimate fears and aspirations of his own community, while promoting fair employment and peace for all. Together, they have shown how religion can be a source for peace, not a cause of conflict, in Northern Ireland. They offer a unique perspective on the problems and promise of Northern Ireland from their diverse perspectives as leaders in two of the largest religious traditions there.

For further information: Gerard Powers 202-541-3199

**A CALL FOR FAIR EMPLOYMENT
AND INVESTMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

January 14, 1994

Preamble

This call for more investment and strong fair employment measures in Northern Ireland

- is an outgrowth of the U.S. visit of the four Irish Church Leaders (Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Anglican and Methodist) in February, 1993, which focused to a significant extent on investment and fair employment concerns;
- is a search for common ground where religious leaders and other people of good will can agree to work together on these matters, while recognizing and respecting differences in other areas;
- is an attempt to offer a modest and constructive contribution on a major problem, recognizing there are other urgent and important issues facing Northern Ireland;
- stands on its own and is not intended to supplant, undermine or interfere with other good faith efforts on investment and fair employment.

Elements of the Call

I. Problems of Unemployment and Discrimination

- There is high unemployment in both communities, but disproportionately in the Catholic community.
- There is historic discrimination in employment within a deeply divided society.

II. Urgent Need for Investment and Job Creation

- There needs to be economic investment in Northern Ireland (and the whole island) by enterprises which will adhere to equal opportunity policies and will try to develop cross-community work forces.
- Investment by U.S. companies benefits Northern Ireland: new jobs, fairly distributed, that are a source of cooperation between communities.
- Investment can contribute to the prosperity of both communities in Northern Ireland, an end to disparities in unemployment, and a reduction in violence.

III. Both Communities Need Equal Opportunity and Fair Employment

- There needs to be greater public understanding of the need for effective and fair anti-discrimination laws; we encourage governmental and nongovernmental education to this end.
- There needs to be full commitment to strong fair employment laws, which ensure that new and existing jobs are distributed fairly between Protestants and Catholics, so as to utilize talents of all people of Northern Ireland.

- We recognize the impact of the 1989 Fair Employment Act for Northern Ireland; there needs to be vigorous enforcement of the law, especially use of contract compliance provisions and efforts to reach out to the underrepresented, whether Catholic or Protestant.
- We urge, where necessary and appropriate, the establishment of goals and timetables by both private and public sectors.
- There needs to be prompt consideration of and action on recommendations for improvements in the law in the light of experience, particularly recommendations from the Fair Employment Commission and the Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights.
- Reverse discrimination or quotas are not needed or acceptable.
- These proposals require simultaneous progress in creating new jobs and addressing complex sources of unemployment in Northern Ireland that are unrelated to discrimination.

IV. The Importance of Constructive American Involvement

- We encourage continued active and constructive interest on the part of Americans in support for investment and fair employment, linked to support for peaceful progress toward political solutions and respect for the diverse traditions in Northern Ireland; fair employment and job creation are a matter of justice and morality, not sectarianism or partisan politics.
- Many Americans support the MacBride Principles, as amplified, as good faith, nonviolent means to promote fair employment. We urge that any support of these amplified principles, which offer positive values and focus on fair employment, be joined with continued support for strong fair employment measures and an active commitment to investment and job creation. The amplified principles, as many of their advocates agree, should not be used to discourage investment or encourage disinvestment.

V. Broader Context

- Continued violence, unemployment, and discrimination point to the need for a political settlement, which will create more attractive environment for investment and job creation.
- Investment and fair employment can help create conditions which lead to greater justice and peace.

Archbishop Robin Eames
Archbishop of Armagh and Primate
Church of Ireland (Anglican)

Presbyterian Church, Ireland

Cardinal Cahal Daly
President
Irish Episcopal Conference

Methodist Church, Ireland

Bishop Edmond Browning
Presiding Bishop and Primate
Episcopal Church, USA

Presbyterian Church, USA

U.S. Catholic Conference

Executive Committee
Board of Church and Society
United Methodist Church

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 28, 1994

Dear Bishop Reilly:

I wish to commend you on the initiative taken by the Roman Catholic, Methodist, Anglican and Presbyterian Churches in Ireland and the United States to promote "investment, more employment and more fair employment" in Northern Ireland.

Your "Call for Fair Employment and Investment" addresses concerns that are critical to establishing common ground between the two communities of Northern Ireland and to building support for a lasting settlement of the conflict. There is clearly a need for job-creating investment that can promote prosperity for all. I am pleased to join British Prime Minister Major and Irish Foreign Minister Spring in supporting your initiative.

I am hopeful that your Call will contribute to the efforts of the Irish and British governments to maintain the momentum for peace created by their Joint Declaration.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

Bishop Daniel P. Reilly
Chairman, International
Policy Committee
U.S. Catholic Conference
c/o 3211 4th Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20017-1194

NEWS

DATE: January 14, 1994

FROM: William Ryan

O 202-541-3200

H 202-686-1824

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHURCH GROUPS ISSUE CALL FOR JOBS, INVESTMENTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND
WASHINGTON--Representatives of the four largest churches in Ireland and their counterparts in the United States have issued a joint call for strong fair employment and more investment in Northern Ireland.

This first joint call by churches on both sides of the Atlantic (announced at a news conference here and in Belfast) was termed a significant step forward in developing common ground across religious lines on the need for renewed efforts to combat historic discrimination and to alleviate double-digit unemployment in a deeply divided society.

The call is the culmination of months of dialogue and consultation which began with the visit of four church leaders from Ireland to the United States last February. More investment and more employment would contribute to and benefit from a just peace in Northern Ireland.

In the United States, groups including the AFL-CIO, the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, and the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility issued statements welcoming and supporting the call.

The full text of **A Call for Fair Employment and Investment in Northern Ireland** is attached.

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...the prosperity of both
...employment, and a reduction in violence.

Ireland's Major Churches Join in Economic Appeal

By Gustav Niebuhr
Washington Post Staff Writer

In an unusual show of unity, officials of Ireland's four largest churches are calling for new economic investment and enforcement of workplace anti-discrimination laws in Northern Ireland to help bring peace to a region riven by bloody conflict between Protestants and Roman Catholics.

The statement, signed by Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist and Anglican leaders, says that "fair employment and job creation is a matter of justice and morality, not sectarianism or partisan politics." It is to be issued today in Belfast and Washington, where it has been endorsed by U.S. Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist and Episcopal church officials.

In an interview yesterday, one signer, the Rev. John Dunlop, called the document important as "a consensus statement" among churches that have not always agreed about the causes of

conflict between Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland, which is ruled by Britain.

"As you change people's attitudes, so you can change the situation on the ground significantly," said Dunlop, a former moderator of the Presbyterian Church.

Over the past quarter-century, more than 3,100 people have died in bombings, shootouts and other sectarian fighting in Northern Ireland.

Intended for people on both sides of the Atlantic, the statement appeals for "investment by U.S. companies" to create "new jobs, fairly distributed," while also calling for "vigorous enforcement" of a 1989 fair employment act in Northern Ireland.

The statement's signers said they hope to convey an image of all Ireland as a field ripe for investment, where employers would find an educated work force.

Cardinal Cahal Daly, Catholic archbishop of Armagh, said lack of work and political violence go

hand-in-hand. When visiting prisons, he said he has found that militants on both sides of the struggle often come from areas of high unemployment. More jobs, he said, would "make a very important contribution to the cause of peace."

Unemployment has long been a problem in Northern Ireland, especially among its Catholic minority. Census figures cited by the U.S. Catholic Conference showed 28.4 percent of Catholic men were out of work in 1991, compared with 12.7 percent of Protestant men. Among women, the unemployment rate was 14.5 percent for Catholics and 8 percent for Protestants.

Daly, who is president of Ireland's Catholic bishops, said some local jobless rates run much higher, up to 60 percent in some parishes.

Last month, the Presbyterian Church (USA) pledged to invest \$500,000 in a Northern Ireland nonprofit venture capital fund intended to create jobs across sectarian lines, said Josiah Beeman, a church official.

ECUMENICAL INITIATIVES ON NORTHERN IRELAND

- **Churches' Call for Fair Employment and Investment in Northern Ireland:** In January 1994, Anglican, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Roman Catholic leaders in Ireland and their counterparts in the United States issued a significant joint call for strong fair employment and more investment in Northern Ireland. This call, which coincides with a statutory review of Northern Ireland's fair employment law, represents a major step forward in developing common ground across religious lines on the need for renewed and improved efforts to combat historic discrimination and to alleviate double-digit unemployment in a deeply divided society.

The Call has been supported by President Bill Clinton, Prime Minister John Major, and Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring and many labor, community and political interests. U.S. groups supporting the Call include: the Congressional Friends of Ireland, the AFL-CIO, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility, and the Irish National Caucus. In Northern Ireland, the Call has been welcomed by representatives of the SDLP and Alliance Parties, the Fair Employment Commission, the Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights, the Northern Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, and the unionist daily, the Ulster Newsletter.

- **Inter-Church Committee on Northern Ireland:** The Inter-Church Committee on Northern Ireland has brought together four representatives each from the U.S. Catholic Conference, the Catholic Bishops of the Armagh Province (which covers Northern Ireland), the Presbyterian Church, USA, and the Presbyterian Church, Ireland. The ICNI has met annually since 1990 to facilitate closer relations between the four church bodies, to discuss issues of mutual concern related to the conflict in Northern Ireland, and to support or sponsor worthwhile ecumenical activities.
- **Speaking Tours:** Each year, an ecumenical team from Northern Ireland goes on a tour of several U.S. cities to educate Americans about the conflict, particularly its religious dimension. The 1993 tour brought the leaders of the Anglican, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Roman Catholic churches to the United States, the first visit of its kind by the leaders of all four churches. In 1995, Fr. Oliver Crilly, a priest from Strabane, one of the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland, and Reverend John Dunlop, former moderator of the Presbyterian Church, Ireland, spoke in Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Washington in February.

ECUMENICAL INITIATIVES (cont.)

- **Summer Institute in Northern Ireland:** Since 1991, we have sponsored an ecumenical Summer Institute on Northern Ireland. This tour provides two dozen Americans an in-depth introduction to the conflict in Northern Ireland through meetings with religious and political leaders, community and labor representatives, academics, and others in the Republic and Northern Ireland. The next Institute will be in August 1996. Contact: Dr. Marie Hilliard (203) 693-2716.
- **Cross-community development and reconciliation programs.** With the support of the Inter-Church Committee, \$1 million was raised (\$500,000 from the Presbyterian Foundation and \$500,000 from the Ecumenical Development Cooperative Society, Netherlands) for the Small Business Venture Fund, which promotes small business development. The Fund has created more than 140 private-sector jobs since its inception in 1992. In 1991, again with Inter-Church Committee endorsement, the Presbyterian Church, USA, gave a grant of \$300,000 for the Townsend Mothers and Toddlers Program, a social service program in a deprived area of Belfast.
- **Business Training Program.** The Inter-Church Committee has actively supported the Business Education Initiative, begun as a pilot program in 1994 by the N.I. Employment and Training Agency, with the cooperation of the associations of Presbyterian, Catholic and Methodist colleges and universities. In 1995-96, this program will allow 130 Catholic and Protestant college students, most from disadvantaged backgrounds, to study business for one year in Presbyterian, Catholic and Methodist colleges throughout the United States.
- **Ecumenical Sister Parish Program.** With the encouragement of the ICNI, Catholic and Presbyterian congregations from Long Island have begun an exchange program with Catholic and Presbyterian congregations in Kilrea.

Information: Gerard Powers
U.S. Catholic Conference
3211 Fourth Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20017
(202) 541-3196 (ph)
(202) 541-3339 (fax)

John Duffey
Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 158836
Nashville, TN 37215
(615) 269-8604 (ph)
(615) 297-5094 (fax)



Department of Social Development and World Peace

3211 4th Street N.E. Washington, DC 20017-1194 (202) 541-3180 FAX (202) 541-3339 TELEX 7400424

October 14, 1994

Sir Patrick Mayhew
Northern Ireland Office
Stormont Castle
Belfast BT435ST

Dear Secretary of State:

We write to express once again our gratitude for your presence and comments at the dinner which opened our recent meeting of the Inter-Church Committee on Northern Ireland. Your reflections on the challenges and opportunities that face Northern Ireland at this historic moment were very timely and most helpful to the members of the Committee. Your kind words about our efforts, including the churches' Call for Fair Employment and Investment were particularly welcome. Your time, insight and eloquence were much appreciated by the group.

We also wish to express once again our support for the coming review of the fair employment law and our appreciation for your invitation to contribute to this important review. As the Call makes clear, we are strong supporters of the cause of fair employment and efforts to increase investment that are linked together in helping to overcome past discrimination and promote equal opportunity in the future.

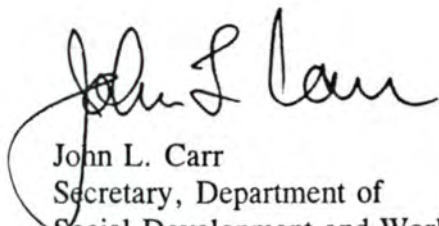
In this regard, we wish to restate our concern that procedural problems could potentially reduce the credibility and effectiveness of the review. We claim no particular expertise in these matters, but we wish to share with you the concerns we heard from several quarters about the perceived independence and the technical capacity of those now undertaking the review. We appreciate your assurances about the openness of the effort and your belief that changes at this point could be administratively difficult. We believe, however, that it would be very unfortunate if procedural issues were to undermine the work of the review or reduce its credibility at this important juncture. Too much rides on both the process and the content of the review at this critical time.

In the Call, we welcomed the coming review and emphasized the vital role of the Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights and the Fair Employment Commission. We hope a way could be found to carry out the review so that these bodies can clearly contribute to both the credibility and the substance of the review. SACHR's independence, record, and reputation are valuable assets that can help the Government carry out a review that is -- and is widely perceived domestically and internationally to be -- credible, thorough and effective.

You and your colleagues face difficult challenges in these historic days. We believe the issues of fair employment and investment can be arenas of cooperation and common effort. Our two churches are working together to make a continuing contribution on these closely linked priorities. We are available to provide whatever assistance we can in working for both lasting peace and justice in Northern Ireland.

Thank you once again for your time with us during our visit and for all you and your colleagues are doing to advance the causes of peace, fair employment and investment.

Sincerely,



John L. Carr
Secretary, Department of
Social Development and World Peace
U.S. Catholic Conference



Reverend Henry J. Postel
Chairman
Northern Ireland Working Group
Presbyterian Church (USA)



discover the potential

24 May 1995

BARONESS DENTON WELCOMES BUSINESS EDUCATION INITIATIVE

Baroness Denton, the Economy Minister for Northern Ireland, has welcomed a new programme which will bring 130 undergraduates from Northern Ireland and the border counties to study at 60 colleges affiliated to the Catholic Methodist and Presbyterian Churches in the USA.

Baroness Denton said **"The Business Education Initiative announced in Washington today will play a vital role in enhancing Northern Ireland's export capability and performance. It will provide a substantial pool of internationally minded young people for our companies to draw upon, and will help attract new businesses to Northern Ireland. Winning overseas customers is what we need most if we are to create the jobs and conditions that will help us to cement the peace process.**

"I am very grateful to the Inter-Church Committee for their foresight in developing this initiative, to Catholic, Methodist, and Presbyterian colleges who have offered the places, and to the IFI for helping us to support the students while they are in the US."

The Business Education Initiative is being led by the Inter-Church Committee on Northern Ireland and today's press conference was attended by Cardinal Cahal Daly, the Roman Catholic Primate and the Very Reverend Dr John Dunlop, a former Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

It is being funded jointly by the International Fund for Ireland, the Training and Employment Agency and the individual colleges which will waive their tuition fees.

The Reverend Henry Postel, a member of the Inter-Church Committee, said that the aim was to help young people develop international business and management skills that industry in Northern Ireland could benefit from. He quoted a letter he had received from President Clinton:

"Bringing students from Northern Ireland to study business subjects at US colleges and universities is an innovative and exciting way of providing these young people with international experience and business knowledge that will be invaluable to them throughout their working lives. It will bring lasting benefits to Northern Ireland's whole economy.

"The US colleges that are already participating have shown great commitment and foresight in developing the programme. I hope that more US colleges will agree to participate and that you will be able to expand the programme for future years. We all share the hope that the process of bringing peace and stability to Northern Ireland will flourish. I am sure that the efforts of the Business Education Initiative will have a positive effect on that process."

The Reverend Postel explained that the initiative was based on a successful pilot programme which brought 19 students to 11 Presbyterian Colleges. "Expanding the programme to 130 places at 60 colleges and universities affiliated to Catholic, Methodist and Presbyterian churches is a wonderful achievement," he said.

John Carr, an official of the U.S. Catholic Bishops' Conference and a member of the Inter-Church Committee added: "The Business Education Initiative is an important contribution to cross community economic development and understanding at a critical time in the history of Northern Ireland, and a valuable programme for U.S. colleges and their students as well.

Both the Irish church leaders, who are in Washington for the White House Conference, emphasised their support for the Business Education Initiative.

Dr Daly said: "The Churches in Northern Ireland are sometimes accused of being part of the problem. It is sometimes not sufficiently appreciated how hard the Churches have worked, separately and together, for peace and justice and reconciliation in Northern Ireland. In this task, the Irish Churches have at all times had strong support from our sister-Churches in the United States of America. One important fruit of this inter-Church and transatlantic cooperation has been the Business Education Initiative."

Rev. Dunlop said: "The Business Education Initiative is an example of constructive cooperation between the International Fund for Ireland, the Northern Ireland Training and Employment Agency and the churches. This is an exciting initiative which represents an investment in the lives of students which will benefit them and the rest of society for years to come."

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The Training and Employment Agency is responsible for Training and Employment issues in Northern Ireland and is an Agency of the Department of Economic Development which is part of the UK Government.
2. The inter-Church Committee for Northern Ireland consists of representatives from the Presbyterian Church and Catholic Bishops from Northern Ireland and the USA.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 24, 1995

Dear Reverend Postel:

I wrote to you in July 1994 to commend you and your colleagues in the Roman Catholic, Methodist, Anglican and Presbyterian Churches on your "Call for Fair Employment and Investment" in Northern Ireland.

I now write to congratulate you and your colleagues on the new Business Education Initiative. Bringing students from Northern Ireland to study business subjects at U.S. colleges and universities is an innovative and exciting way of providing these young people with international experience and business knowledge that will be invaluable to them throughout their working lives when they return to Northern Ireland. It will bring lasting benefits to Northern Ireland's whole economy.

The U.S. colleges that are already participating have shown great commitment and foresight in developing the program. I hope that more U.S. colleges will agree to participate and that you will be able to expand the program for future years. We all share the hope that the process of bringing peace and stability to Northern Ireland will develop and flourish over the coming months and years. I am sure that the efforts of the Business Education Initiative will have a positive effect on that process.

My best wishes to all involved in this important initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Bill Clinton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bill" and last name "Clinton" clearly distinguishable.

The Reverend Henry Postel
Chairman
Northern Ireland Working Group
Presbyterian Church, USA
c/o 3211 4th Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20017-1194

US Universities/Colleges participating on the Business Education Initiative
Academic year 1995/96

Type	College	State	Places
C	Assumption College	Massachusetts	1
C	Barry University	Florida	2
C	Bellarmino	Kentucky	1
C	Carlow Women's College	Pennsylvania	2
C	Georgetown University	Washington	2
C	Holy Family College	Pennsylvania	2
C	John Carroll University	Ohio	2
C	Kansas Newman College	Kansas	2
C	La Roche College	Pennsylvania	6
C	Notre Dame University	Indiana	3
C	Rosemount College	Pennsylvania	2
C	Spalding	Kentucky	4
C	St Rose College	New York	2
M	Adrian College	Michigan	2
M	Alaska Pacific University	Alaska	2
M	Centenary College	New Jersey	2
M	Dillard University	Louisiana	1
M	Evansville University	Indiana	1
M	Ferrum College	Virginia	2
M	Florida Southern College	Florida	2
M	Huntingdon College	Alabama	10
M	Indianapolis University	Indiana	2
M	Lindsey Wilson College	Kentucky	2
M	McKendree College	Illinois	1
M	Morningside College	Iowa	1
M	North Central College	Illinois	1
M	Oklahoma City University	Oklahoma	2
M	Pfeiffer College	North Carolina	2
M	Randolph-Macan College	Virginia	1
M	Randolph-Macan Women's College	Virginia	5
M	Rust College	Mississippi	2
M	Shenandoah University	Virginia	1
M	Tennessee Wesleyan College	Tennessee	2
M	Union College	Kentucky	2
M	Wiley College	Texas	2
P	Albertson College	Idaho	2
P	Austin College	Texas	2
P	Beaver College	Pennsylvania	1
P	Davis and Elkin College	West Virginia	4
P	Dubuque University	Iowa	1
P	Grove City College	Pennsylvania	2
P	King College	Tennessee	1

Type	College	State	Places
P	Lyon College	Arkansas	1
P	Mary Baldwin College	Virginia	1
P	Maryville College	Tennessee	2
P	Missouri Valley College	Missouri	4
P	Montreat-Anderson College	North Carolina	1
P	Muskingum College	Ohio	2
P	Pikeville College	Kentucky	4
P	Rocky Mountain College	Montana	1
P	Schreiner College	Texas	2
P	Sheldon Jackson College	Alaska	2
P	Stillman College	Alabama	2
P	Warren Wilson College	North Carolina	1
P	Waynesburg	Pennsylvania	2
P	Westminster College MO	Missouri	1
P	Westminster College PA	Pennsylvania	2
P	Whitworth College	Washington	1
P	Wilson College	Pennsylvania	4

Total Places:	129
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Key		<u>Total Colleges</u>	<u>Places</u>
C	Catholic	13	31
M	Methodist	22	48
P	Presbyterian	<u>25</u>	<u>50</u>
Totals		60	129

**Breakdown of students participating on the
Business Education Initiative Academic year
1995/96**

Gender

Males	68
Females	<u>53</u>
Total	121

Perceived community background

Roman Catholic	42
Protestant	49
Outside NI	<u>30</u>
Total	121

Written Testimony

Submitted to

The House Committee on International Relations

March 15, 1995

John Carr
Secretary, Department of Social Development and World Peace
U.S. Catholic Conference

and

Reverend Henry J. Postel
Chairman, Northern Ireland Working Group
Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

Northern Ireland has its best prospects for a just and lasting peace in more than a generation. Few could have predicted, even a short time ago, the dramatic developments that have brought Northern Ireland to this new moment. With strong political leadership from both main communities in Northern Ireland and the British and Irish governments, this new moment can be transformed into a decisive turn toward a permanent peace.

PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE U.S. SUPPORT FOR A PERMANENT PEACE

A permanent peace will not be easy or quick.

- A permanent peace will require a commitment to nonviolence and democratic processes; it will require courage, patience, creativity and a willingness to compromise.
- A permanent peace will require a process of dialogue and demilitarization in both communities; there must be no doubt that the gun has been permanently removed from politics in Northern Ireland.
- A permanent peace will require a political settlement that fully respects the legitimacy and equal rights of both unionists and nationalists; neither unionists nor nationalists should expect their own identity, aspirations and rights to be protected at the expense of those of the other community.
- A permanent peace will require continued progress on social justice, human rights, fair employment and economic reconstruction; peace will be cemented if the people of Northern Ireland experience the fruits of peace in their daily lives.

We believe these general principles should guide the United States government and American citizens in their continuing efforts to play a constructive and supportive role in encouraging the peace process in Northern Ireland. People in Northern Ireland must be able to see a future where their rights and dignity are respected, where discrimination and harassment are ended, and where the two communities live together in justice and peace. American efforts to help them realize this future cannot substitute for the courage, creativity and leadership of the people most affected.

Since we understand that this hearing is concerned primarily with matters of fair employment and investment, our testimony will focus on how Americans can contribute to peace in Northern Ireland by encouraging investment linked to fair employment.

THE NEED FOR FAIR EMPLOYMENT AND INVESTMENT

A little more than a year ago, religious leaders of the Anglican, Methodist, Presbyterian and Roman Catholic churches in Ireland and their counterparts in the United States issued an unprecedented joint Call for Fair Employment and Investment in Northern Ireland in which they said that "fair employment and job creation are a matter of justice and morality, not sectarianism or partisan politics."

While chronic, double-digit unemployment touches both communities, the fact that Catholic males are more than twice as likely as Protestant males to be unemployed demonstrates the urgent need, as a matter of justice and morality, to create new jobs, to strengthen efforts to ensure fair employment, to combat discrimination and to address the structural causes of economic deprivation.

Strong Fair Employment is Essential. Northern Ireland's relatively new fair employment law is a significant step forward, but Northern Ireland still suffers from historic discrimination in employment. While Catholic unemployment is more than two times that of Protestants, both communities benefit from strong fair employment laws. That is why the church leaders believe people in Northern Ireland need a better understanding of this law, the law must be vigorously enforced, and, where necessary, the law should be improved. Therefore, in their Call, the church leaders called for

- broad education programs on the value for both communities of an effective and fair law;
- use of existing contract compliance provisions, so that companies that discriminate do not continue to benefit from government contracts;
- affirmative efforts to reach out to those who are underrepresented in the workplace;
- the establishment of goals and timetables, where necessary, for both private and government employment;

None of these measures require, nor do the churches support, reverse discrimination or quotas.

The current review of the fair employment law offers an opportunity to assess progress, address difficulties, and strengthen efforts to eliminate employment discrimination and increase employment opportunities. The U.S. Catholic Conference and the Presbyterian Church, USA, welcome the decision to move the current review of the fair employment law to the more independent Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights (SACHR). We will seek constructive and appropriate ways to contribute to

this review process and hope that other Americans will do likewise. As the church leaders urged in their Call, the recommendations that come out of this review process, especially those of SACHR and the Fair Employment Commission, should receive prompt consideration and action.

Investment and Job Creation are Necessary. The church leaders believe that increased investment and fair employment are not in conflict but are integrally related. Without more jobs, fair employment could end up only redistributing unemployment in Northern Ireland. Increased investment by companies with strong equal opportunity practices will contribute to fair employment, especially if efforts are made to develop cross-community work forces and if investment is targeted to areas of social need. Peace and prosperity are linked; new opportunities must be created and distributed in a just manner. New jobs, fairly distributed can be a source of cooperation between divided communities and can help end the unacceptable disparities in unemployment. U.S. investment, in addition to benefiting from an increasingly attractive business environment, can make a major contribution to peace in Northern Ireland by offering more employment and more fair employment for the people of Northern Ireland.

For these reasons, we welcome President Clinton's decision to hold a White House Conference on Trade and Investment in Northern Ireland, and we have been encouraging business persons from our two congregations to participate in this important conference. The private trade and investment being promoted by the White House Conference will provide the greatest impetus to job creation and economic reconstruction in Northern Ireland, but the U.S. government can also play an important direct role through increases in U.S. contributions to the International Fund for Ireland. The relatively small U.S. contribution to the Fund produces economic benefits quite out of proportion to its size. Moreover, it is a tangible symbol of American support for the peace process in Northern Ireland.

The churches' Call for Fair Employment and Investment has been welcomed by many on both sides of the Atlantic, including President Bill Clinton, Prime Minister John Major, Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring, the congressional Friends of Ireland, and a wide range of civil rights, trade union, political and community interests in the United States and Ireland. U.S. groups supporting the Call include: the AFL-CIO, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility, and the Irish National Caucus. In Northern Ireland, the Call has been welcomed by representatives of the SDLP and Alliance Parties, the Fair Employment Commission, the Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights, the Northern Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, and the Ulster Newsletter. We believe this broad and disparate support indicates that the Call offers a

helpful framework to promote new investment and combat historic discrimination in Northern Ireland.

ECUMENICAL INITIATIVES ON NORTHERN IRELAND

The Presbyterian Church, USA, and the U.S. Catholic Conference are working actively with our counterparts in Northern Ireland to follow up on the Call and to continue to promote closer cooperation between our churches here and in Northern Ireland. Our joint initiatives include the following:

- Regular ecumenical speaking tours and an annual Summer Institute in Northern Ireland help to educate Americans in a balanced way about Northern Ireland;
- We have raised \$1 million from church foundations for the Small Business Venture Fund, which has created more than 140 private-sector jobs for both communities since its inception in 1992. Another \$300,000 from the Presbyterian Church, USA, has funded the Townsend Mothers and Toddlers Program, a program that straddles the "Peace Line" in Belfast.
- We actively support the Business Education Initiative, which was begun in 1994 by the N.I. Employment and Training Agency, with the cooperation of the associations of Presbyterian, Catholic and Methodist colleges and universities. In 1995-96, this program will allow more than 100 Catholic and Protestant college students, most from disadvantaged backgrounds, to study business for one year in Presbyterian, Catholic and Methodist colleges throughout the U.S.

These various initiatives reflect the commitment of our churches on both sides of the Atlantic to work together to play a modest but constructive role in promoting both justice and peace in Northern Ireland. It is our experience in this ecumenical, transatlantic work that informs our joint testimony. We hope that concerned Americans will join us in redoubling our efforts at this new moment to support the Northern Ireland's peacemakers. It is time for all of us to add our prayers, pleas and commitment to those of so many in Northern Ireland who truly long for a just peace and hope that it may soon be at hand.

Supporting Justice and Peace in Northern Ireland

**Most Reverend Daniel P. Reilly
Bishop of Norwich, Connecticut
Chairman, Committee on International Policy
U.S. Catholic Conference**

The Feast of St. Patrick, 1994

We celebrate the Feast of St. Patrick this year with renewed hope but also continued concerns about the prospects for peace in Northern Ireland. There is the best opportunity in years for a just peace; yet, political intransigence and violence continue.

In a spirit of solidarity, Americans can make a constructive contribution to justice and peace in Northern Ireland in several ways:

First, Americans can support the recent call of the four largest churches in Ireland and their counterparts in the United States for strong fair employment and more investment in Northern Ireland. This joint inter-church Call, which has received widespread support on both sides of the Atlantic, is a significant step forward in developing common ground across religious lines on the need for improved efforts to combat historic discrimination and to alleviate double-digit unemployment. The injustices of discrimination and large disparities in unemployment between Catholics and Protestants must be combated by both strong fair employment measures and more jobs. These are matters of justice and morality, not sectarianism or partisan politics.

Americans should urge the British government to implement the recommendations of the churches, including their call for education about the need for effective and fair laws; vigorous enforcement of the existing law, especially through use of contract compliance provisions and efforts to reach out to the underrepresented; and, where necessary and appropriate, the establishment of goals and timetables by both private and public sectors.

Americans can also help promote fair employment by promoting investment and job creation in Northern Ireland, through direct investment and through programs such as the International Fund for Ireland.

Second, this is a critical time for Americans to show their support for a just political settlement. The Joint Declaration between the Irish and British governments is, in the words of Cahal Cardinal Daly, "a charter for true democracy in Ireland, without external interference." It offers a basis for dialogue and progress with the participation of all those who reject violence.

We urge Americans who long for a united Ireland to accept that self-determination for the people of Ireland requires the agreement and the participation of the unionist community. At the same time, self-determination requires that unionists accept the equal rights and legitimacy of the nationalist tradition. Nationalists and unionists alike can achieve authentic self-determination only if they pursue it in a spirit of dialogue and reconciliation and with respect for the basic human rights of all. Justice and peace for both nationalist and unionist traditions is necessary to secure a future of hope for all the people of Ireland.

Finally, Americans can promote a just peace in Northern Ireland only if they oppose all violence. The new hope for political progress in Northern Ireland will become a reality when the paramilitaries from both sides clearly and unequivocally renounce violence and enter the political process.

We join Cardinal Daly in condemning as "unspeakably evil" the continuing "murderous campaign" by loyalist gunmen against the nationalist and Catholic community. We also join Cardinal Daly in appealing to Sinn Fein and the IRA to recognize that "republicans have now, as never before, an opportunity for peace with honour, and that there will never be a better opportunity." The only way for the republican cause to be advanced is by exchanging bullets for ballots. To stop the violence is an act of courage and strength; to continue to rely on the gun and the bomb is a sign of weakness.

The vast majority of Americans have long recognized that political dialogue and cooperation, not violence, are the only way forward. It is long past time for all Americans who care about Ireland to publicly and unequivocally reject violence from whatever source and for whatever cause. Those Americans who continue to provide support to paramilitaries share responsibility for their terrorist acts and for the continuation of violence, injustice and despair in Northern Ireland.

St. Patrick's Day is a time to thank God for the blessings he has bestowed on Ireland and the Irish. It is also a time when we celebrate the historic ties that bind Ireland and America. By promoting strong fair employment and more investment, by encouraging political progress, and by rejecting all forms of violence, Americans can ensure that these deep bonds are a force for justice and peace, not further division, in Northern Ireland.

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STATEMENT ON NORTHERN IRELAND

ARCHBISHOP JOHN R. ROACH
CHAIRMAN, INTERNATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 4, 1993

These are terrible days for the people of Northern Ireland and all who care about justice and peace in that troubled place. Almost daily we watch the terrible toll of violence grow. Amid all the funerals, the loss, the tears, the anger, the despair, there must arise a common conviction -- stop the killing, stop the retaliation, stop the empty illusion that violence brings either justice or peace. No cause is advanced by the murder of innocent people. No wrong is righted by killings of revenge. No true justice can be won, no genuine peace brought about by bombs, blood and bullets.

With the plea to end the killings must come another indispensable commitment -- a renewed determination to work for greater justice and real peace for the people of Northern Ireland. It is not enough to be against violence, although that is indispensable. We must be for concrete steps to address the injustice, divisions, and despair which haunt Northern Ireland.

It is time for the paramilitaries of Northern Ireland -- from both sides -- clearly and unequivocally to renounce violence and enter the political process. It is time for the leaders of Northern Ireland, as well as Ireland and Britain, to renew with greater urgency and commitment the process of dialogue and negotiation over the future of this polarized province. It is time for political leaders to demonstrate that they can move beyond the posturing and stalemate of the past to real dialogue over how to overcome the divisions, to address injustice and to secure a safe future for both communities. There is a deep and urgent hunger for peace across both communities in Northern Ireland. Deep disappointment and disillusionment would follow rejection of any process offering genuine hope for peace and for the permanent cessation of all violence. There are signs that such a hope now exists. It is vital that this opportunity not be lost.

It is also time for religious leaders and other groups to intensify their ongoing efforts to build bridges, to pursue peace, and to address questions of justice -- discrimination and fair employment, security policies and other human rights concerns.

We support our brother bishops in Northern Ireland in their consistent and courageous witness for peace and justice in the midst of so much conflict and violence. We join with Cardinal Cahal Daly in his recent appeals:

If we are to accept and to pass on Christ's gift of peace, we must be people of peace ourselves. . . If we wish peace, we must seek justice. . . We must show that violence is

not a way to just change but is, on the contrary, itself a cause of new and greater injustices. . . (October 24, 1993)

All efforts to advance the cause of peace are to be welcomed. Any initiative which offers prospect of a cessation of violence and peace should be fully and urgently explored by the Irish and the British Governments. We dare not in this critical time exclude any serious opportunity for peace. (September 8, 1993)

We once again call on Americans who care about Northern Ireland to add their prayers, pleas and commitment to end the violence and help Northern Ireland turn from the path of destruction and death to the peaceful pursuit of justice and reconciliation.

In an age when the Berlin Wall has come down and when Israelis and Palestinians abandon decades of conflict for the path of peace, the people of Northern Ireland -- Protestant and Catholic, Unionist and Nationalist -- need our active help and constant prayer that they may find the path to greater justice and peace for all their children and their tragic land. We pray the terrible tragedy of these days will mark a fundamental turning point for justice and peace for all the people of Northern Ireland.

#

Lee

free Ireland

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 4, 1995

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ALEXIS HERMAN 

SUBJECT: SELECTION OF PRESIDENTIAL GUESTS FOR THE
UNITED KINGDOM / IRELAND TRIP

Purpose

To approve a list of recommended individuals to be invited to travel to Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland as *Presidential Guests* during your upcoming trip to this region.

Background

We plan to include a group of *Presidential Guests* in your upcoming trip. By including these individuals, we seek to help advance the goals of the trip abroad and highlight your role and commitment to the Irish peace process back home. The individuals will bring with them political, economic, and community development knowledge and experience as well as their commitment to peace in the region. As witnesses to your trip, they will be in an enhanced position to help support and communicate the importance of this peace process in key American communities.

We will invite 42 individuals to travel to Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Invited guests will travel on a single aircraft and join you for certain elements of the trip. All guests will be asked to cover the cost of airfare and expenses. Numbers are limited due to aircraft size. We feel strongly that no more than one aircraft be dedicated for the transport of *Presidential Guests*.

Although this message of peace is one that reaches beyond a single ethnic group, our focus is to maximize our efforts to reach Irish America with the message. Irish Americans are the second largest ethnic group in the country. On average, 16% of the American population claims Irish heritage; ranging from 18.5% in the Northeast to 13% in the West. Although Irish Americans are scattered throughout the country, the highest concentrations remain in the Northeast and Midwest states of Massachusetts (26% of population), Pennsylvania (19%), New Jersey (18.3%), Ohio (17.5%), Illinois (16.3%), and New York (15.6%).

The list of recommended *Presidential Guests* for your review is representative of a commitment to peace in the region, with a strong emphasis on Irish America in key areas of the country mentioned above. We attempted to strike a balance from an Irish political perspective and from a religious perspective. The list is broken down into the following eight categories:

1.	Administration Officials	6 individuals
2.	Business	6 individuals
3.	Labor	4 individuals
4.	Elected Officials	6 individuals
5.	Organizations	6 individuals
6.	Religious	6 individuals
7.	Irish America	6 individuals
8.	The Arts	2 individuals

On the list attached, you will see that the religious category has only one Catholic. This is for the purpose of balance, since so many of the individuals in other categories are lay Catholics.

It also should be noted that in choosing individuals for the business category, our criteria included a commitment to peace in Ireland and/or Irish roots of the individual business person. Because this is not a trade mission, we were careful to make sure that individuals were included for a broader purpose than their interest in doing business in the region.

The recommendation process included input from all White House outreach offices, the NSC, as well as the Department of Commerce and Department of State. In the past week, a working group of representatives of these offices was put together to review and prioritize recommendations. The attached list has been agreed upon by that working group.

RECOMMENDATION

That you review and make any adjustments to the list of recommended *Presidential Guests* attached and approve the list so that invitations can be extended beginning Tuesday, November 7, 1995.

Attachment: Recommended list of Presidential guests

cc: Erskine Bowles
Anthony Lake

Ireland Trip

Presidential Guest Recommendations

NAME	TITLE	AFFILIATION	CITY	ST	RECOMMENDED BY
Hon. Ron Brown	Secretary	U.S. Department of Commerce			Cabinet Affairs
Hon. Richard Riley	Secretary	U.S. Department of Education			Cabinet Affairs
Hon. Carol Browner	Director	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency			Cabinet Affairs
Hon. Mark Gearan	Director	U.S. Peace Corp			Cabinet Affairs
Hon. Joseph Duffey	Director	U.S. Information Agency			Cabinet Affairs
Hon. Christine Varney					Working Group

Note: Hon. George Mitchell and Hon. Jim Lyons will be included in the President's Official Delegation.

Ireland Trip

Presidential Guest Recommendations

NAME	TITLE	AFFILIATION	CITY	ST	RECOMMENDED BY
William Flynn	Chairman	Mutual of America and National Committee on American Foreign Policy	New York	NY	Commerce;OPL
Tony O'Reilly	Chairman, President and CEO	H.J. Heinz Company and Chairman, American Ireland Fund	Pittsburgh	PA	Commerce
Donald Keough	Chairman	Allen & Company, Inc.	New York	NY	Commerce
Jack Smith	CEO	General Motors	Detroit	MI	OPL
Philip Rooney	CEO	WMX Technologies	Chicago	IL	OPL
Stephen J. Burrows	President and COO	Anheuser-Busch International, Inc.	St. Louis	MO	OPL

Alternates

John Bryan	President and CEO	Sara Lee	Chicago	IL	OPL
Hugh McColl	President and CEO	Nations Bank	Charlotte	NC	OPL
Fred Wallace Smith	President and CEO	Federal Express	Memphis	TN	OPL
Peter Meade	President and CEO	The New England Council	Boston	MA	OPL;Legislative Affair
Hugh L. Carey	Executive Vice President	W.R. Grace & Company	Washington	DC	Working Group
James F. McCann	President	*1-800-Flowers	Westbury	NY	Working Group

Ireland Trip

Presidential Guest Recommendations

NAME	TITLE	AFFILIATION	CITY	ST	RECOMMENDED BY
John Sweeney	President	AFL-CIO			Chief of Staff's Office
Tom Donahue	former President	AFL-CIO			Chief of Staff's Office
Gerald McEntee	President	AFSCME			Chief of Staff's Office
John Barry	President	Electrical Workers			Chief of Staff's Office

Alternates

Jack Moore	Secretary	Electrical Workers			Chief of Staff's Office
John Joyce	President	Bricklayers			Chief of Staff's Office

Ireland Trip

Presidential Guest Recommendations

NAME	TITLE	AFFILIATION	CITY	ST	RECOMMENDED BY
Hon. Richard Daley	Mayor	City of Chicago	Chicago	IL	IGA
Hon. Tom Murphy	Mayor	City of Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	PA	IGA
Hon. Richard Riordan	Mayor	City of Los Angeles	Los Angeles	CA	IGA
Hon. Kathleen Kennedy Townsend	Lt. Governor	Commonwealth of Maryland	Annapolis	MD	IGA
Hon. Mary Boyle	Commissioner	Cuyahoga County	Cleveland	OH	IGA;Political Affairs
Hon. William Bulger	President	Massachusetts State Senate	Boston	MA	IGA

Alternates

Hon. Ed McNamara	County Executive	Detroit County	Detroit	MI	IGA
Hon. Patrick Sweeney	Minority Leader	Ohio House of Representatives	Columbus	OH	IGA
Hon. Joseph P. Riley, Jr.	Mayor	City of Charleston	Charleston	SC	IGA
Hon. Thomas Coyne	Mayor	City of Brook Park	Brook Park	IL	IGA
Hon. Philip Bredesen	Mayor	City of Nashville	Nashville	TN	IGA;OPL

Ireland Trip

Presidential Guest Recommendations

NAME	TITLE	AFFILIATION	CITY	ST	RECOMMENDED BY
Bruce Morrison	Chairman	Americans for a New Irish Agenda	Washington	DC	OPL
Brian O'Dwyer	Chairman	Emerald Isle Immigration Center	New York	NY	OPL
Denis Mulcahy	Detective	New York Police Department, driving force behind Project Children, 1995 Top Cop	New York	NY	OPL
Robert Scully	President	National Association of Police Organization	Washington	DC	OPL
John Feerick	Dean	Fordham University Law School and Recipient, Ulster Conflict Resolution Grant	New York	NY	OPL
Mary Boergers	Senior Fellow	Ireland-U.S. Political Leadership Program, University of Maryland	College Park	MD	Political Affairs

Alternates

Niall O'Dowd *	Publisher	Irish Voice and Irish America Magazine	New York	NY	OPL
Claire O'Gara Grimes *	Publisher	Irish Echo			OPL

* If we are unable to invite to travel with us, we should include them in certain activities in Ireland and invite their editors to travel on the press plane.

Edward Wallace	National President	Ancient Order of Hibernians of America	Clayton	NY	OPL
Alfred E. Smith	President	Alfred E. Smith Foundation, Inc.	New York	NY	OPL;IGA
Father Monk Malloy	President	Notre Dame University	South Bend	IN	OPL;IGA
Sister Bridget Driscoll	President	Marymount College	Tarrytown	NY	OPL;IGA

Ireland Trip

Presidential Guest Recommendations

NAME	TITLE	AFFILIATION	CITY	ST	RECOMMENDED BY
Bishop Edmond Browning	Presiding Bishop	The Episcopalian Church	New York	NY	OPL
Reverend Tom Fassett	General Secretary, Church of Board and Society	United Methodist Church	Washington	DC	OPL
Rev. Dr. C. Kenneth Hall		Presbyterian Foundation	Butler	PA	OPL
Reverend Hank Postel	Chairman, Northern Ireland Working Group	Presbyterian Church of America	Darnestown	MD	OPL;OFL
Bishop Daniel P. Reilly	Chairman, International Policy Committee	U.S. Catholic Conference	Worcester	MA	OPL;OFL
Bishop Melvin Talbot	Chairman	National Council of Churches of Christ	San Francisc	CA	OPL

Alternates (for Catholic slot)

Archbishop John R. Roach		Diocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis	St. Paul	MN	OPL
Archbishop Theodore McCarrick		Archdiocese of Newark	Newark	NJ	OPL;IGA
John Cardinal Hickey		Archdiocese of Washington	Washington	DC	OFL
John Carr	Director, Office of International Peace and Justice	U.S. Catholic Conference	Washington	DC	OFL

Ireland Trip

Presidential Guest Recommendations

NAME	TITLE	AFFILIATION	CITY	ST	RECOMMENDED BY
Bill Daley			Chicago	IL	Political Affairs
Joe Keefe	Chairman	New Hampshire Democratic Party	Manchester	NH	Political Affairs
Terry McAuliffe			Washington	DC	Political Affairs
Patrick Murphy		husband of Victoria Murphy, Chair, Maine Democratic Party	Portland	ME	Political Affairs
John Pound	Attorney	Herrara, Long & Pound, P.A.	Santa Fe	NM	Political Affairs
Bill Wardlaw			Pasadena	CA	Political Affairs

Alternates

Gerald McGowan		Lukas, McGowan, Nace & Gutierrez	Washington	DC	Political Affairs;OFL
Neil Hartigan		McDermott, Will & Emery	Chicago	IL	Political Affairs
Thomas Dwyer		Dwyer & Collora	Boston	MA	Political Affairs
Lawrence O'Brien, III		O'Brien & Calio	Washington	DC	Political Affairs
Thomas J. Foley	Former Speaker	U.S. House of Representatives			Working Group

Ireland Trip

Presidential Guest Recommendations

NAME	TITLE	AFFILIATION	CITY	ST	RECOMMENDED BY

The following plan to be in Ireland at the time:

Paul Newman *					OPL
Jack Dunfey *	Chairman	New England Circle	Portsmouth	NH	OPL
Tom O'Neill *					Legislative Affairs

* We suggest inviting these individuals to join the group for certain activities.

Ireland Trip**Presidential Guest Recommendations**

NAME	TITLE	AFFILIATION	CITY	ST	RECOMMENDED BY
Pat Conroy		Major author, books include "Prince of Tides" and "Beach Music"			T. Caplan
William Kennedy		Pulitzer Prize winner and author of "Ironweed"			T. Caplan

Alternates

Thomas Flanagan					T. Caplan
James Carrol					T. Caplan
John Gregory Dunne					T. Caplan

file Ireland

Department of Social Development and World Peace

3211 4th Street N.E. Washington, DC 20017-1194 (202) 541-3180 FAX (202) 541-3339 TELEX 7400424

October 25, 1995

Ms. Nancy Soderberg
Special Assistant to the President
and Staff Director
National Security Council

Dear Ms. Soderberg:

We write regarding the President's upcoming visit to Northern Ireland.

We have just returned from a visit to Northern Ireland, where we had an opportunity to meet with a number of religious and political leaders. We were encouraged by the positive attitudes towards the President's visit by many in both communities. Clearly, this historic visit is of great significance for the peace process.

We would hope that, among other things, the President's visit will reinforce the positive role of religion in bringing peace to Northern Ireland. Our ecumenical work over the past decade has convinced us that religion is part of the solution, not the problem in Northern Ireland, and we hope that will be reflected in the President's remarks and itinerary.

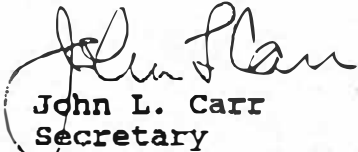
The importance of the churches for the peace process could be highlighted in a number of possible ways:

- * U.S. church leaders could be included in the President's delegation
- * The leaders of the four largest churches in Ireland could be included in one of the President's events, perhaps along the lines of the White House Conference, when Cardinal Cahal Daly and Reverend John Dunlop said an invocation
- * The President could refer to the positive work of the churches in his public remarks
- * The First Lady could speak at an event built around an ecumenical reconciliation project or charity.

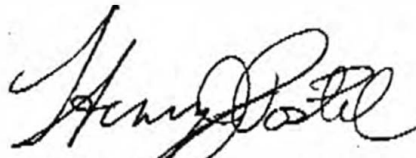
Letter to Ms. Soderberg
October 25, 1995
Page Two

We discussed these and other specific ideas with Kathy Stephens in Belfast last week. As you know, she is getting very good reviews after only a short time on the job. We would be happy to provide more specifics on these or other ideas, if that would be helpful.

Sincerely,



John L. Carr
Secretary
Department of Social Development
and World Peace
U.S. Catholic Conference



Reverend Dr. Henry J. Postel
Chairman, Northern Ireland
Working Group
Presbyterian Church, USA

cc: Kathy Stephens



Department of Social Development and World Peace

3211 4th Street N.E. Washington, DC 20017-1194 (202) 541-3180 FAX (202) 541-3339 TELEX 7400424

*For Today's ^{P.4} 2⁰⁰ pm
Mtg!*

October 26, 1995

Ms. Flo McAfee
Office of Public Liaison
The White House
FAX# 456-6218

Dear Flo:

Thanks for the call regarding the President's visit to Northern Ireland.

I enclose a copy of the letter we sent to Nancy Soderberg (a similar letter was sent to Senator George Mitchell) with various suggestions regarding the visit.

In terms of persons who might be part of the delegation accompanying the President, it would be most important for the four largest churches on the island of Ireland (all are organized on an island-wide basis) -- Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Anglican, and Methodist -- be represented on the delegation. Of these four, the Presbyterian Church, USA, and the U.S. Catholic Conference have been most active. I enclose a summary of our ecumenical efforts.

After speaking with Reverend Hank Postel, chairman of the PCUSA's Northern Ireland Working Group, we would recommend that you choose from the following persons, in the order given. (I will supply the addresses and numbers of those I didn't have time to get down):

From the USCC:

Bishop Daniel P. Reilly
Chairman, USCC International Policy Committee
49 Elm Street
Worcester, MA 01609
(508) 791-7171 (ph)
(508) 753-7180 (fax)

Archbishop John R. Roach
Archbishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis (retired)
(former President of NCCB/USCC and former USCC International Committee chairman)
226 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55102
(612) 291-4400 (ph)
(612) 290-1629 (fax)

Letter to Flo McAfee
October 26, 1995
Page Two

Bishop Raymond Boland
USCC bishop representative to the Inter-Church Committee
(816) 756-1850 (ph)
816-756-0878 (fax)

John Carr
Secretary, USCC Dept. of Social Development and World Peace

From the PCUSA:

Rev. Henry J. Postel
Chairman, PCUSA NI Working Group
15120 Turkey Foot Rd.
Darnestown, MD 20878
(301) 948-9127 (ph)
(301) 948-9135 (fax)

Rev. Dr. C. Kenneth Hall
Presbyterian Foundation
235 Woodland Road
Butler, PA 16001
412-285-9679 (Ph/Fax)

Persons to contact for names from Episcopal and Methodist churches:

Episcopal Church, USA: Rev. Brian Grieves

United Methodist Church:

Tom Fassett, Church of Board and Society
United Methodist Church
100 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20002

I hope all this helps. Thanks for consulting us.

Sincerely,



Gerard F. Powers
Foreign Policy Advisor

encl

Boston University

International Visitors Program
Elizabeth Shannon, Director
25 Lenox Street
Brookline, Massachusetts 02146

Tel: 617/353-6162
Fax: 617/353-7110



Ireland

JH

July 29, 1996

Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C

Dear Mrs. Clinton:"

I have just returned from the "Reaching Common Ground" conference in Northern Ireland, where I read the warm and eloquent letter you kindly gave me to read at the Plenary Session of the Conference. All the women there were gratified and pleased that you remembered them and particularly encouraged their entrance into electoral politics.

As you probably know, the women of Northern Ireland from all communities have formed a new political party called The Women's Coalition. It is an umbrella party which is not constricted to allegiance to any religion or existing political faction. It is cross-community, mould breaking, and solution focused.

The formation of this party is an exciting step towards the evolution of women's role in the political process. As a result of their strong campaign, they were able to elect two women to the All-Party Talks, Monica McWilliams, a Catholic, and Pearl Sagar, a Protestant. They are very impressive and articulate women dedicated to the Coalition's goals of peace and economic stability.

There is no question in the minds of activist women in Northern Ireland that your and the President's visit there sparked latent energies in so many areas, political activism being one. During the course of many serious conversations I had in the past month, the subject of your visit would arise. Without fail, a smile would crease the speaker's face and she would say "Jeeze, what a wonderful thing that was!"

Senator Mitchell's presence at the talks is an important and positive addition to the peace process. If we survive August 10, the next Orange parade in Derry, perhaps we'll be on track again. (I enclose an article I wrote for yesterday's Boston Globe on this issue.)

I and all Irish-Americans are deeply grateful to the efforts that you and the President have made toward peace in Northern Ireland. We wouldn't be at this stage without that support.

When are you coming back to Boston?

With best wishes,

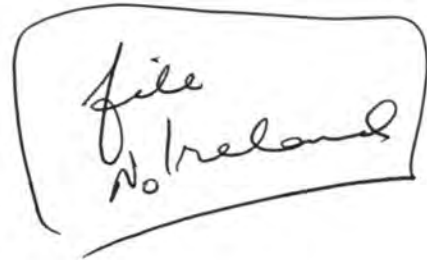
Liz

Elizabeth Shannon

Boston University

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Elizabeth Shannon, Director
25 Lenox Street
Brookline, Massachusetts 02146

Tel: 617/353-6162
Fax: 617/353-7110



Melanne Verveer
Office of the First Lady
Room 100
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Melanne:

It was inspiring for the women of Northern Ireland to hear the letter from Mrs. Clinton. I read it at the opening session of the "Reaching Common Ground" Conference in Belfast. I am grateful to you for having arranged that. Would you kindly give the enclosed letter to Mrs. Clinton from me? Thank you.

The growth of the women's political movement in NI is a major step for them towards achieving a viable voice in the process. They have established their own political party, called The Women's Coalition, which bypasses the existing male political parties and traditions, and is open to all women of all religious and political traditions. This is a totally new and innovative move on the part of Northern Ireland women. The old guard political hacks can't figure it out!

I am going to be in Washington over the weekend of September 14-16. If you have time for a coffee on Monday, September 16, I'd love to see you again. I'll call you closer to the date.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Shannon

The governments, police and the two communities have one more chance to put the spirit and words of the Framework Document into practice.

A slim hope for Ulster peace survives

ELIZABETH SHANNON

It is preposterous that the fragile peace in Northern Ireland is once again tottering towards extinction. A peace process carefully nurtured over two years by the British and Irish governments, supported and encouraged by the Clinton administration, financially helped by the European Union and American investment and desired by the vast majority of people of the country cannot simply dissolve within a matter of weeks unless the resolve to make it work is not there.

A few months ago, it seemed that there was going to be a brave new world for children growing up in Northern Ireland. The end of the cease-fire in Manchester damaged but did not destroy the process. Once experienced, peace is an addiction hard to break.

There are many positive elements to make the All-Party talks succeed. One is the formation of a new political party, the Women's Coalition. Years of playing supporting roles to leading actors of no talent created among the women of Northern Ireland a desire to make their voices heard on the main stage. They have new things to say and new ways of saying it. The party was able in six weeks to publish 14 policy papers, campaign, raise money and elect two representatives to the talks.

Monica McWilliams and Pearl Sagar, Catholic and Protestant

They bring a new dynamism and a willingness to make political compromise and negotiation in order to accomplish the substantive goals of the talks. They are eager to discuss and act on the issues of the agenda.

They are also discussing the seating plan, an issue worthy of their time. The core of the Women's Coalition includes three political principles: inclusiveness, equity and respect for human rights.

cease-fire in the coming weeks. So, despite the odds, there is a ragged sense of hope as the talks get underway.

Now the fallout from the first of the dangerously provocative Orange marches in Northern Ireland has threatened the entire process with an almost predestined doomed failure. This did not have to be so.

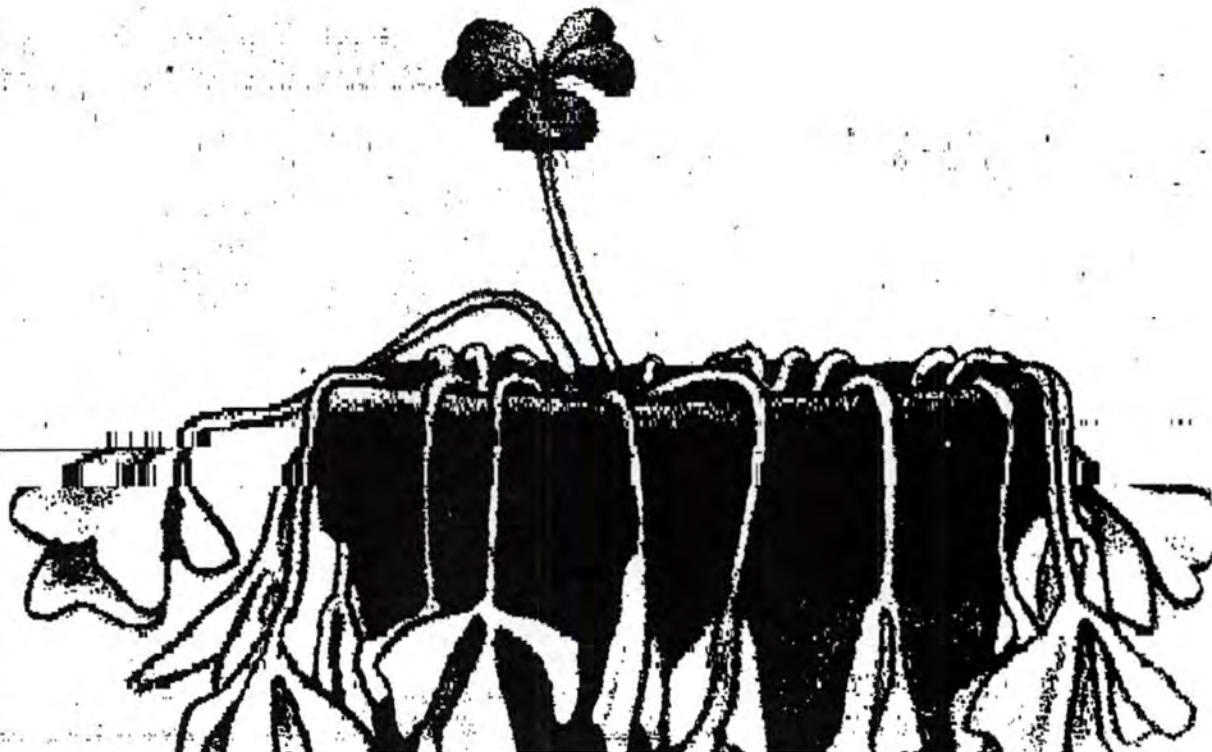
The very core of the Downing Street Declaration and the Framework document is to guarantee that, come hell or high water, there would be a fair deal in Northern Ireland for the Catholic minority. The IRA was persuaded to announce their original cease-fire based upon this guarantee.

Then Sir Hugh Annesley, the head of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, reversed his original decision and allowed members of the Protestant Orange Order to march through a Catholic neighborhood at Drumcree (in Portadown), ostensibly because he feared the widespread violence that might ensue otherwise. That decision – and the harsh treatment by the RUC towards the nationalist population affected by the march – will go down in Northern Ireland's history as another moment when fortitude of spirit, courage and resolution to do the right thing, no matter the outcome, would have changed the course of history.

Here are eerie echoes of that moment on May 15, 1974, the Ulster Workers' Council called a general strike all over Northern Ireland to protest the newly formed "Power Sharing Executive," in which members of all political parties in Northern Ireland would have a share in self-governance. The might of the British army, responsible for security in Northern Ireland, was unable to cope with the growing chaos. The "strike" became the overthrow of a legitimate government, and on May 29 the short-lived and courageous experiment was terminated. Northern Ireland has not had self-government since.

The next act of the Northern Ireland tragedy will be played in Derry on Aug. 10, when the Protestant Apprentice Boys march is scheduled. The governments, police leaders and the two communities have one more chance to put the spirit and words of the Framework Document into practice. The threat of violence from one side cannot be used as a scapegoat to leave the nationalist community there at the mercy of uncontrolled gangs and hostile police. If Drumcree is repeated, one must seriously fear for the future of Northern Ireland.

Elizabeth Shannon is director of the International Visitors Program at Boston University.



✓ 5cc: Melane

free Ireland

THE WHITE HOUSE

January 31, 1996

Rosemary D. O'Neill
Office of East African Affairsx
Bureau of African Affairs
U. S. Department of State
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Rosemary:

Thank you for your letter about the President's trip to Northern Ireland and for your very thoughtful expression of support.

Wherever I went on my recent book tour, I was encouraged by the many people I met who care about a better future for our children and our country and whose attention will not be diverted from these goals. I will continue to draw strength and optimism from them and from your friendship.

With gratitude and warm regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Hillary

Hillary Rodham Clinton

If you have ideas for follow-ups to Ireland, please let me know.



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

January 15, 1996

Dear Mrs. Clinton,

This overdue note is to thank you and the President for the great honor you paid to my father in Derry during the Presidential visit to Northern Ireland. The President was so generous in his remarks -- the entire O'Neill family is most grateful. The American Ireland Fund made a video of the event and provided us with a copy. We were able to show it to my mother and my aunt on Christmas day. They were of course thrilled with the Clintons' tribute to my father.

I also wish to thank you for your wonderful meeting with Joyce McCarten and the other women at the Women's Drop In Center in Belfast. I was able to catch a small snip-it of the meeting in the evening TV news after you and the President returned to Belfast. I think that that meeting, along with the President's meetings in Belfast that morning, were some of the most important events of the trip. The fact that that session was held just six weeks before Joyce died of a collapsed lung is most moving. I do not know if there will be any follow-up after that session, but if there is, I would be honored to assist with it.]

The glow of the President's and your visit to Ireland stayed with me right through the Christmas holidays. I can't tell you how much it meant to the people of the island of Ireland for you to be there. It is so hurtful to think that you are being maligned by the likes of Alphonse D'Amato and William Safire. I know however that you will take heart and I am confident that in the next few weeks you will disarm your critics and show them for what they are.

Again, please accept my thanks and my very best wishes to you and the President.

Sincerely,

Rosemary O'Neill

Rosemary D. O'Neill
Office of East African Affairs
Bureau of African Affairs

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton,
The First Lady,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

File
Ireland

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

December 1, 1995

**REMARKS BY FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
TO IRISH WOMEN AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
DUBLIN, IRELAND**

MRS. CLINTON: As we landed here I felt as though I had been here before although this is my very first trip to Ireland. I don't suppose one can grow up in America without knowing many Irish-Americans and without appreciating the many contributions that this culture has made to our own. And we are particularly reminded of our close ties this year because you are observing the 150th anniversary of the Great Famine. We owe something of our own history to this tragedy of yours.

Being here today, having come from Northern Ireland yesterday, I understand even more clearly the ways in which Ireland has influenced American society. And I am learning more every minute about the ways in which Irish women have influenced American society and still are today. Over the past many years, the people of this country who have come to our country, and particularly Irish women, have brought with them values that have served the test of time -- a devotion to family, an inner strength, a courage and spirit of independence that have strengthened the American way of life and our own democracy.

On behalf of the more than 40 million Americans of Irish descent, we are grateful for these close ties and for the relationship that has been built over the years. Not just between countries, but between people and families and communities.

There is so much hope today in the United States that what we saw yesterday in Belfast, a new and peaceful Ireland, will become a reality from one end to the other of this island. As I talked about what it meant to people -- to men, women and children -- to have this cease-fire, I was struck by how grateful they were for normalcy. To walk down the streets, to expect to go Christmas shopping without fear, to let their children play outside -- the blessings that we take for granted which to them are now seen as such markers for the kind of life they want to lead.

The women I spoke with yesterday are not high-level diplomats or professional negotiators; they have not yet been elected to office. They were women, Catholics and Protestants alike, whose lives and families have been affected by the

violence. They didn't wait for someone else to be organized, they didn't wait for other voices to be raised, they themselves took it upon themselves to go door to door through their neighborhoods to say, "Stop the bloodshed, this cannot go on." Their grief became their and our call to action.

These women may not be well-known across the world but they should be, because their courage and spirit is what we have to have more of if we expect to have a peaceful world for all of us. There are women like these women in the Middle East, in Bosnia and South Africa, in all of the trouble-spots around our globe. We must give them courage by reinforcing their own willingness to take risk for peace.

These are the women who every day are getting up and facing realities that we luckily only have to think about or see on the television. But it is this kind of grass-roots commitment that will stand the test of time and will make a difference. Were it not for these women, I do not know whether the cycle of violence would have been broken in Northern Ireland. If it were not for these women working tirelessly, I don't think that we would have seen as many people as we saw yesterday, who are breaking down barriers to overcome suspicions and defy history.

Their efforts remind us that building a peace is a long and difficult task -- but it is a necessary one, not just to end the bloodshed, but to put into place the building blocks that enable individuals to seek fulfillment and to live up to their own God-given potentials.

Irish women who are working for peace have found ways to make their faith a source of strength, not a source of division. By coming together, accepting each other, and creating a new community together, they are discovering what women around the globe are discovering as well: No matter how different we may be superficially, whatever religion we follow, whatever shade of color our skin might be, whatever our ethnic background, there is so much more that unites us than divides us. And if women begin talking with one another, around kitchen tables, in cafes, in the work places, we will discover that sense of shared identity.

That is what I saw at work yesterday. We must together seek a common ground and on that common ground build the kind of society that so many of you in this great hall have both worked for and prayed for.

I had the opportunity recently to read the text of a lecture that President Robinson gave a few years ago, and I was delighted to see her and her husband just a few hours ago. I thought he and I should perhaps start a club for spouses. President Robinson, as you know so well, and as the world is discovering, has offered eloquent insights into the challenges

facing men and women at this point in the history of Ireland and in the world.

Much of what she said has stuck with me but one thing in particular really made an impression. And that is that the participation of women in society requires a re-appraisal of our view of who and what is valuable in our world. As much as policies and legislation are important to women's progress and women's rights, a shifting of attitudes and values is necessary as well.

This is not to suggest that women in Ireland should not become more involved in the existing political process. Indeed, I hope many, many will, both here and particularly in the North. But it is to suggest that the work of peace, that the work of reconciliation is far too important to be left to those who are elected leaders. It is work that has to be done every single day by everyone of us.

President Robinson is an excellent example of what can be accomplished through the political process, but there are many women here and throughout this island who are not elected officials, who themselves are making great contributions. In changing our attitudes and values we have to dare to think differently -- to break through the categories that we once took for granted.

That certainly is a priority to the North, where we visited the Mackie Plant yesterday morning. Protestant and Catholic workers still enter by separate entrances and then work together on the shop floor. It is certainly true in our own country, where we battle against the divide of race and ethnicity, and even sometimes religion, as we struggle every day to make America live up to its ideals.

It is certainly the case in Bosnia, where, when the forces go in to implement the peace that the political leaders have made, real peace will only come because individuals, Croats and Serbs and Muslims, will decide that they have had enough of the bloodshed, and that the games on the military battlefield are not worth the heartbreak and the loss and their children's lives.

Like some of you, I was fortunate enough to attend the United Nations Conference in Beijing. And there I looked out at women from every corner of the world, some of whom are up against odds that I cannot even imagine. They see their little sisters and their daughters being denied food and medical care, and dying before they are five years of age.

They live in places where girls still are not permitted or encouraged to attend school, or if they do, the schooling ends much too early. They come from societies where women still are

not even allowed to vote, or if they are, it is only on paper because there is not encouragement or full participation in the political process.

When I meet women like that, I must confess that I am very humbled. And I'm overwhelmed by my own blessings in the United States, but a little sad that so many of us do not take advantage of all the opportunities that we have -- both for ourselves and for all those around us.

That conference focused attention on the plight of women around the world but it also, I think, has reminded those of us in countries like Ireland and the United States, that we have much work to be done here as well.

Those of us who enjoy the opportunities of health care, or jobs, or credit, or legal and political rights, have to recognize that so many others among us do not, even within our own societies. I can go places in my own country where, because of poverty and lost opportunities, I see the results of lives that have been squandered, families broken and futures destroyed.

I believe, with all my heart, that women are the world's greatest untapped resource. And that resource too often is being wasted today. Each of us in our lives knows that we can begin to unleash the full power and glory of women's potential.

What must change in order for us to do that? First, in our everyday lives, we must begin to respect the dignity of each person and overcome assumptions, presumptions, prejudices and prejudgments about who we are and what we stand for.

And there certainly must be a truce among women. We should no longer be making judgements about one another because of the choices we have made. We should respect and strengthen and support each other; those who choose to be full-time in the home, those who choose to be full-time in the world of work, and those, like me and many of you, who attempt to compose a life that consists of both the responsibilities in the home and the work-place.

It does not do us any good to be pointing fingers or making assumptions about what kind of mother someone is who works outside of the home or what kind of loss someone has experienced because she chose not to.

Let us celebrate the contributions of every woman, instead of pigeon-holing and categorizing women in ways that limit their and our potential. There is no formula that I'm aware of for being a successful or fulfilled woman today. Now perhaps it would be easier if there were. If we could be handed a pattern and cut it out, as our mothers and grandmothers and foremothers

were, that would be, I suppose, easier -- just to make a quilt that looked like everyone else's. But that is not the way it is today and I am glad it is not.

I like and relish diversity in the lives of women today. I am pleased that I am living in this time, as difficult as it is, because I want to know who I fully am, and I want to help other women to make that choice as well. Having choices means having responsibilities, having obligations, as Mrs. Green said, accepting consequences. But if women are to be full and equal partners in the life of society and the life of the family, that's what independence and responsibility needs.

Before coming here today someone told me the story of an incoming group of women members of Parliament who were interviewed by a prominent television talk show host a few years ago. And one of the first questions was: "Who is minding the children?"

I have two responses to that. The first is, I long for the day when men are asked the same question. Women and children need men to be full participants in the raising of children. And men, if only they knew, need the opportunity and joy of being those participants in their own families.

My second response is that I wish that when women are asked questions like that, they would be phrased somewhat differently. So that instead of being asked that way, the question might instead be put, "Do you have child care that is accessible, affordable, safe and dependable, and if not, what can we all do through society, to make sure that children are well cared for and that you are given the sense of security that, as a working mother, you should have?"

To truly respect a woman means to respect the choices she makes for herself and her family. That means all choices, and it means providing the kind of support and respect those choices deserve.

Too often we fall into the trap of thinking that so-called "women's issues" only affect women. But if we truly care about strong families, strong communities, and strong societies, we must recognize that men and women should complement each other inside and outside the home. Men and women must not be consigned to opposite poles; we must be partners in a common enterprise for the good of us all, and particularly our children.

Along with a change in personal attitudes and values, every second in society can affect positive changes that empower and educate women to take this responsibility for themselves and their choices.

Schools, for example, could be more flexible in providing opportunities for women who raise children. Life-long learning is essential in the global economy. So many women in our world did what was expected of them: they had their children early in their late teens and twenties, then wanted to go back to school to further their own educations and contribute to their family's income. Perhaps they became the sole bread-winner in a family. Still, they find it nearly impossible in my country and in many others, to care for their families, make a living and pursue their educations.

Businesses can initiate policies, and I fully hope they will, that will make work more family-friendly. We are making it as difficult as possible for men and women to be both good workers and good parents. Modern technology should mean that more men and women can work at home. That should be encouraged where appropriate. But also, setting schedules and making it easier to find and provide child care should be considered. Businesses, at the very least, can value women by paying them equal salaries for equal work everywhere in the world.

The law enforcement and justice systems can act more efficiently to protect women from violations of their legal rights, particularly from violence in their homes. Violence in the home is a leading cause of death world-wide among women between the ages of 14 and 44.

I recently read an article from one of your newspapers about domestic violence here in Ireland. And I was very pleased to read the comments of Minister Owen, who said that both "violence against women is a crime It cannot be explained away" as some sort of "family difficulty or some other euphemism." Let us call it what it is, it is a crime and it should be treated as a crime and the perpetrators should be prosecuted, whether they are in the United States, Ireland, or anywhere in the world.

So many of the challenges families and particularly women face are rooted in poverty and an absence of economic opportunity. Financial institutions can address this problem by serving all people, even if they are poor, live in remote areas, or are women. I have visited places in the world where women are living in abject poverty but because someone held out a helping hand, with credit, they were able to buy another milk cow, to buy a woodshop for their husband, to sink a well. And all of a sudden, they not only had more income, they had the dignity that comes to someone who is lifting herself out of poverty.

In every one of these cases that I know of, where these kinds of investments are being made, women are proving to be very good credit risks. They repay their loans above ninety-five percent. Many of our large financial institutions should be very happy to have that kind of return on an investment. But instead

they are stuck in old ways of thinking. We need now to act on the evidence that we have that women who are given access to credit through modest loans are starting small businesses, working out of their homes and eventually employing others.

And just yesterday, I saw the same kind of initiative in action at the Women's Information Drop In Center in Belfast. That organization began in opposition to violence but has evolved into an umbrella for many different organizations that promote economic and educational opportunities for women.

These women have seized this moment in history to address the root causes of violence, the lack of economic opportunity and social deprivation; the absence of jobs that have moved elsewhere; industries that are no longer competitive in the global economy; the absence of higher education or lack of child care or credit.

We met in a restaurant called Ye Olde Lamplighter. It was established only five years ago and now provides jobs for seven local people. It is just one of many examples I have heard about where women coming together have made a difference.

We should not be surprised that women are leading the way, not only in putting a stop to violence but in coming up with new and effective ways to achieve their own potential and contribute to the lives of their families, communities and nations.

As the great poet Katharine Tynan, writing about Irish women, observed so keenly in her poem, "Any Woman":

"I am the pillars of the house;
The keystone of the arch am I.
Take me away, and roof and wall
Would fall to ruin utterly."

The strength and support of Irish women is critical to future peace and prosperity across this land. Your struggles are specific, but they reflect the many common struggles that women -- and men -- face around the world.

As you move forward here and to the North, please know that millions and millions of American women and men will be with you in spirit. And we will stand with you as you take risks for peace and reconciliation. We will move together with you for a more just society that we believe will benefit all people and particularly our children.

Thank you for the work you are doing, the inspiration that you give so many of us, and for the hope that has been lit this Christmas Season because of what we have seen these last days.

Thank you and Godspeed.

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*file
Ireland*

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 9, 1996

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

All Americans join Hillary and me in our outrage at the bomb explosion today in London. I condemn in the strongest possible terms this cowardly action and hope those responsible are brought swiftly to justice. Our hearts and prayers go out to those injured in this terrible blast and to their families.

I am deeply concerned by reports that the Irish Republican Army has announced an end to the cease-fire. For a year and a half, the people of the United Kingdom and Ireland have enjoyed living in peace, free to go about their daily lives without the threat of the bomb and the bullet. As was clear during my visit to Northern Ireland last year, the people want peace. No one and no organization has the right to deny them that wish.

The terrorists who perpetrated today's attack cannot be allowed to derail the effort to bring peace to the people of Northern Ireland--a peace they overwhelmingly support.

The United States stands ready to assist the two governments in continuing their search for negotiations and peace. Today's action underscores the urgent need for all sides to join in the fight against terrorism and to press forward in that search.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 10, 1996

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT
UPON DEPARTURE

The South Lawn

8:47 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. I have a few words to say about yesterday's terrorist bombing in London, as all of us know, and injured scores of people. Let me begin by saying that I know I speak for all Americans who join Hillary and me in praying for those who were hurt and for their speedy recovery. We also hope that those responsible for this terrible and cowardly act are quickly brought to justice.

There can be no doubt about the purpose of this attack. This attack was aimed at the growing prospects for peace, a just and lasting peace in Northern Ireland. I am deeply concerned by reports that the Irish Republican Army has announced an end to the cease-fire. The cease-fire and the goodwill and hard work of the parties to the Irish conflict have given the people of Northern Ireland the greatest gift of all: the simple blessings of a normal life.

Since the cease-fire went into effect a year and a half ago, people of all faiths have been able to go about their daily lives without the disruption of searches and roadblocks, and especially without fear of the bullet and the bomb. We must not turn away from that path now.

I know that the overwhelming majority of the people of Northern Ireland -- Catholic and Protestant alike -- want to stay on the path of peace. During my visit there last year I could see for myself that the demand for peace was lasting. No one and no organization has the right to deny the people of Northern Ireland a peaceful future, and I am determined to do all that I can to see that the enemies of peace do not succeed.

Last night I spoke to the British Prime Minister, John Major, to

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express our shock and sadness over this event. I also spoke to the Irish Prime Minister, John Bruton. I assured both of them that America would continue to be committed to work for a negotiated, secure peace.

Let me say again that this terrible incident reminds me of a lesson I have learned in working for peace throughout the world in the last three years. The real differences in our world are not between Catholics and Protestants, Arabs and Jews, Muslims, Croats and Serbs, they are between those who embrace peace and those who reject it, those who look to the future and those who are blinded by the hatreds of the past, those who open their arms and those who are determined to keep clenching their fists.

We all have to choose. The people of Northern Ireland have chosen peace. They do not deserve to have a small group choose bloodshed and violence and wreck the peaceful life they long for. And the people of Great Britain do not deserve to have this violence wreaked upon them. We will not stop in our efforts until peace has been secured. Thank you.

END

8:50 A.M. EST

UNCLASSIFIED

vi Belfast
commitment
-- JOYCEQS ENERGY AND ENTHUSIASM WERE AN INSPIRATION TO ME AND TO WOMEN AND MEN THROUGHOUT NORTHERN IRELAND, THE TIME I SPENT WITH HER LIVES ON WITH ME AS A VERY SPECIAL MEMORY OF MY VISIT TO NORTHERN IRELAND.
will

and, indeed,
throughout
the world.

4. POST ALSO SUGGESTS A LETTER FROM THE FIRST LADY TO MRS. MCCARTANQS HUSBAND AND/OR TO HER COLLEAGUES AT THE DROP-IN CENTER. ADDRESSES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(HUSBAND)
MR. SEAMUS MCCARTAN
C/O JANICE ARCHIBALD
WOMENQS INFORMATION DROP-IN CENTER
115A ORMEAU ROAD
BELFAST BT7 1RG
NORTHERN IRELAND

(WIDIC)
WOMENQS INFORMATION DROP-IN CENTER
115A ORMEAU ROAD
BELFAST BT7 1RG
NORTHERN IRELAND

6. PLEASE ADVISE.
STEPHENS
BT
#0006

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FROM:
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WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

DIST: DOHSE, HARMON, SENS, SODERBERG, SOLIS, HARMON, NSC, PETERS, SUM, SUM2,
VERSHBOW

PREC: IMMEDIATE CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED DTG:091435Z JAN 96

FM: AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO:
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8595

RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 8066
RUEHDL/AMEMBASSY DUBLIN 5827

UNCLAS BELFAST 0006

NSC FOR PETERS AND DOHSE;
WHITE HOUSE FOR FIRST LADY'S STAFF

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (CLINTON, WILLIAM) PREL, UK
SUBJECT: RECOMMENDED CONDOLENCE IN DEATH OF

JOYCE MCCARTAN

forwarded

1. JOYCE MCCARTAN OF THE WOMENQS INFORMATION DROP-IN CENTER DIED LAST NIGHT AFTER A SHORT ILLNESS. THE FIRST LADY VISITED THE CENTER AND MET WITH MRS. MCCARTAN DURING HER VISIT HERE LAST NOVEMBER 30, AN EVENT WHICH WAS HEAVILY AND FAVORABLY REPORTED UPON.

2. POST HAS RESPONDED TO NUMEROUS PRESS INQUIRIES BY EXPRESSING OUR SADNESS AT MRS. MCCARTANQS PASSING AND BY NOTING THE MANY CONTRIBUTIONS SHE MADE TOWARD PEACE, RECONCILIATION AND BETTERING WOMENQS LIVES. WE HAVE ALSO EMPHASIZED WHAT A PROFOUND IMPRESSION SHE MADE UPON EVERYONE SHE MET DURING THE PRESIDENTQS AND FIRST LADYQS VISIT TO BELFAST.

3. GIVEN THE LARGE ROLE MRS. MCCARTAN PLAYED IN THE FIRST LADYQS VISIT HERE, POST RECOMMENDS THAT COMMENTS BE ISSUED IN THE FIRST LADYQS NAME ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

-- GREATLY SADDENED TO HEAR OF THE DEATH OF JOYCE MCCARTAN. MY THOUGHTS ARE WITH HER FAMILY AND FRIENDS AT THIS TIME.

paning
and all the people of
N Ireland whose lives she
touch thru efforts
for peace & reconcil'n

UNCLASSIFIED

file No Ireland

PARTNERSHIPS FOR A NEW COMMUNITY

*Remarks by Philip Lader
U.S. Ambassador
to the United Kingdom of
Great Britain and Northern Ireland*

*Habitat for Humanity House-Building Project, Belfast
May 20, 1998*

When Millard Fuller founded Habitat for Humanity 22 years ago in Americus, Georgia, his vision was not only to provide shelter for those in need. Then, and now, Habitat is committed to building . . . not just houses, but communities; raising . . . not just beams, but spirits; lifting . . . not just 2 x 4s, but aspirations.

It is particularly fitting, therefore, that—amidst the fervent hopes of those who work for a just and lasting peace in Northern Ireland—many of us today, and in the weeks and years ahead, lend our relatively small efforts to ensure that, in Millard's words, "the excitement is building." What I see being built here in a traditionally Protestant neighborhood and only a few miles away in one that is predominantly Catholic are not merely houses but one of many potential partnerships for a new community of Northern Ireland.

TIES TO NORTHERN IRELAND

I was born on St. Patrick's Day, the day—it is said—when every American becomes Irish for a while. Back in Washington this past March 17th—with many of Northern Ireland's political leaders, at the White House with the President, with the Secretary of State in her office, with Speaker Gingrich, Senator Kennedy and other Congressional leaders on the Hill—I never felt more proud both to have even this remote claim to being "part-Irish" and to have the privilege of representing my country in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Every American owes a debt to the men and women who boarded ships from this city and contributed in their unique ways to the American story. Some settled in Boston, Chicago and New York; others in the Piedmont region of North and South Carolina, my home state. Irish-Americans, Catholics and Protestants, today are leaving their mark on Belfast, Maine, Belfast, New York, Belfast, Ohio, and communities throughout my nation.

Student days at Oxford occasioned my first visit to this island. I then marveled at the Giant's Causeway, built, as the ancients recounted, by a giant, out of love. (Millard probably thinks that it therefore resembles a Habitat project.)

Soon after my arrival at this post, I came to Belfast and Derry for a conference on trade to underscore the central role of economic development in determining Northern Ireland's future. In my frequent visits and particularly today, with the upcoming historic referendum, I have been encouraged by the popular appetite for a just and lasting peace.

THE VISITS OF PRESIDENT AND MRS. CLINTON

During her October, 1997, visit, America's First Lady, holding the teapot Joyce McCarten had given her, spoke movingly of their friendship, applauded those who ~~are~~^{were} engaged in the multi-party talks, and stated her belief that,

When the people want peace, it is the obligation of political leaders to find the common ground where it can thrive. That requires compromise and reconciliation. That involves postponing or even giving up one's cherished ideals in the belief that others will do the same to end the conflict and build a better future.

In 1995, when President Clinton came here, huge crowds stood by the roadside, enveloped in the frosty breath of thousands waiting to see the Christmas tree from Nashville burst into light. The simple words of two children, Cathy and David—one Protestant, one Catholic—introduced him at Mackies.

On that day, there ~~was~~^{were} tremendous hope and enthusiasm for peace.

Today, we must reflect on where we go from here. Past memories without present action, as the American writer Harriet Doerr noted, "are like corks left out of bottles. They swell. They no longer fit."

THE CHALLENGE

Our challenge is to ensure that the memories from these visits continue to fit. What these volunteers here today are doing is, in the President's words, to "lock in the gains for peace." We are hammering to encourage the spirit of reconciliation.

We are driving nails with the hope that the sad legacy of bombs and bullets is once and for all laid to rest. What the President has made clear, reconfirmed by Mrs. Clinton last October, is that the United States remains firmly committed to encouraging and supporting those who take risks for peace. In that sense, we echo Thomas Jefferson who liked "the dreams of the future better than the history of the past."

In Birmingham and London with Prime Minister Blair only a few days ago, President Clinton, a Protestant Irish-American as he called himself, respectfully encouraged the voters of Northern Ireland to consider "where the world is going to be in 12 years . . . 2010."

You will have a much more globalized economy; you'll have both Great Britain and ~~The~~ Republic of Ireland more involved in the European economy, more involved with the rest of the world, and more involved with each other, meeting at the tip of Northern Ireland, economically and psychologically, no matter what the legal framework.

Now, the people that are at that vortex are going to have a very ~~interesting~~^{interesting}, very real, very good life if they vote to live it together. if they vote to stay apart, they're still going to be frustrated, distrustful, angry and a little bit ~~left~~^{left} out . . .

We know that democracies of diverse peoples are interesting places to be when your uniqueness is valued.

America has stood by those who have stood for peace, and we will continue to do our part to help the people of Northern Ireland realize the tangible benefits of peace. To that end, just as these houses are built on foundations, President Clinton recently announced a series of American initiatives to bolster the foundations of peace here:

- * First, the President will work with Congress to make up to five million dollars available to complete the new West Belfast Springvale Campus project.
- * Second, the United States is committed to helping the communities in Northern Ireland build the new institutions created by the April 10 accord. President Clinton will work with Congress to make available \$500,000 to fund programs to support this effort.
- * Third, the U.S. Information Agency is supporting the collaboration of the Philadelphia Jobs Initiative with Worktrain, a Northern Ireland "welfare to work" initiative.
- * Fourth, a Vital Voices conference, co-sponsored by the United States and other regional partners, will be held in Belfast in early fall to showcase and support the vital role women play in society's economic and political life. I hope that Mrs. Clinton will return to Belfast to participate in this important conference.

Perhaps most helpful of my government's efforts, as I noted on my first visit, may be American support for Northern Ireland's economic development. We cannot let politics alone do the work of economics. To that end, Commerce Secretary Daley and I will visit Northern Ireland in early June with a high-level U.S. business delegation to intensify what is already a substantial economic relationship.

While heading the U.S. Small Business Administration, I enthusiastically accepted Senator George Mitchell's invitation to participate in the 1995 White House Conference for Trade and Investment in Ireland and was seated one night between two businessmen: one from Dublin, another from Belfast. Never before had they met or discussed potential business interests. That night, hands were shaken across a divide, in a way that is peculiar to earnest business people. The importance of economic development to a peaceful political solution in Northern Ireland was made particularly clear to me.

PARTNERSHIPS FOR A NEW COMMUNITY

There is, I believe, an incredible transforming power of prosperity. And partnerships crafted by leaders from business, academe and the community can have a unique role in fostering such prosperity. Andrew Young—former Atlanta mayor, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, civil rights champion—perhaps said this best: "Nothing is impossible if 100 businessmen decide to do it."

Business is rarely haunted by romantic ghosts of yesteryear. In community partnerships businesses can encourage pragmatic analysis of real problems, apply the disciplines of the marketplace, and point to the unyielding bottom line. Bringing this viewpoint into communities struggling to renew themselves helps focus them on concrete responses to real life needs—whether they be housing, health care or education, new roads, clean parks, or accessible shopping.

The value of this contribution is writ large in America's history. When railroads first stitched together the American continent, the great changes they unleashed led the historian Charles Francis Adams to conclude that society must "cease from useless attempts at making a wholly new world conform itself to the rules and theories of a bygone civilization."

Seattle, home for Boeing and Microsoft, had to move beyond its heritage as a rough-and-tumble port town feeding the Yukon gold rush. Today, a community organization paired with Boeing trains disadvantaged citizens for the company to employ in state-of-the-art manufacture of airplane parts.

Detroit had to recognize that new designs, new products, and new partnerships were needed. As a result, today churches, unions, community groups and schools rally around unprecedented

opportunities. A church prepares people to work in a pharmacy. A hospital trains neighborhood residents for careers in healthcare.

Atlanta had to leave behind *Gone with the Wind* nostalgia to become the South's commercial center. Today its inventive partnerships include a recycling plant which hires students for summer jobs and offers them scholarship money for university and career counseling.

Under Vice President Gore's leadership, hundreds of "empowerment zones" have been established in American cities. There, churches, local governments, citizen groups, and businesses are together defining new, inventive ways to address community needs. These are partnerships for a new community.

Baltimore is one of the best examples. Hundreds of local residents contributed more than 10,000 hours developing that city's empowerment plan. Just as Baltimore's waterfront has become a showplace of commerce, culture, and science, the community is being revitalized.

In Newark today, a young, single, inner-city mother can feed her children breakfast in a safe, quiet flat, then leave one child at daycare and the other at school as she heads to work. Afterwards she can buy food for dinner at a nearby store before attending a class to advance her career. All of this has been made possible by one of the oldest community development organizations in the U.S., the New Community Corporation.

In Houston, many groups did not know what others were doing, so—with the help of a real estate developer—information resource centers have been located in distressed neighborhoods. Available there, in one place, is practical assistance regarding jobs, business development, social services, credit, education, and youth support services.

In each of these American communities, partnerships have been central. Businesses have contributed resources, of course; but equally important, they have shared in developing the vision.

For the airplane to have been invented, it has been said, there first had to have been thousands of years of dreams of angels. Vision is at the heart of these partnerships.

SURPRISING CONSEQUENCES

Churches, schools, community groups, charities and businesses—as Habitat for Humanity illustrates—together can build powerful partnerships. The results are, moreover, often unforeseen. Remember:

- * Alexander Graham Bell was trying to invent a hearing aid and gave us the telephone.
- * Columbus was looking for a new route to India, not the New World.
- * A naval disaster helped produce the pocket watch.
- * In 1707, a fleet of the Royal Navy foundered less than 40 miles from the English coast, killing nearly 2000 sailors, because they could not accurately measure their longitude. This tragedy launched a drive to solve the longitude problem, leading to breakthroughs in astronomy and clock-making.
- * Penicillin was discovered by accident.
- * Here in Belfast, John Dunlop, a veterinarian, perfected the first practical pneumatic tire because he was looking for a way to help his sickly son ride his bicycle on the hard cobblestones.

For partnerships to build a new community, they must fix their eyes on some imaginary point on the horizon, never sure it will be attained, never certain what the point is. Yet from such partnerships' commitments can come some remarkable achievements.

Only a few days ago, President Clinton, sitting with Prime Minister Blair, and—in the President's words—speaking “for the overwhelming majority of Irish-Americans in both the Catholic and Protestant communities,” said that

all we have ever wanted was a just peace. This peace embodies the principle of consent. It gives the Irish people of both traditions the right to chart their future in Northern Ireland and to make of it what they will. I think [he continued] if it is embraced, you'll see a big increase in involvement of Irish-Americans and other Americans eager to invest in Northern Ireland, eager to lift prosperity, and to show people the benefits of peace.

REASONS FOR HOPE

American companies, I am happy to say, want to be some of your partners. The U.S. is the largest foreign investor in Northern Ireland. Overall, 100 American companies support 10,000 jobs here.

But America's current and potential contributions are merely a part of the promise of partnership.

The power and will for transformation are your own, I know from history: Tall ships sailed out of the port of Belfast; booming mills created “Linenopolis,” when there were more spindles here than anywhere else in the world, with factories, in Macauley's words, “that were so brilliantly lighted, towering many stories above the chimneys of the houses, and resounding with the roar of the machinery.”

The shipyards here turned out revolutionary new oceanliners. Local printing firms had worldwide reputations. Marcus Ward and Co. pioneered the Christmas card! The world's largest ropeworks covered 40 acres of Belfast waterfront and attracted worldwide publicity by persuading the French tightrope walker, Blondin, to use its products. History demonstrates that the ingenuity for a new community is here.

Those were, I admit, different times, different industries. But this new Ambassador is witnessing a rekindling of inventive partnerships here: New and revitalized industries, ~~ships~~^{computer} cranes replaced by robot arms and computer-aided design. Hands that once spun linen are inputting data. Where once the world's largest ships were built, the world's largest disc-drive company is a leading investor.

Last December, I saw images from both those worlds when I visited, as President Clinton did in 1995, the East Belfast Enterprise Park. I met Franklin Hunter, carefully bending iron into beautiful furniture, and Michael McNeill and Elias Joudeh, designing web pages. Blacksmiths and webmasters working in the same building complex. The old and the new, both authentic signs of Northern Ireland.

Near the turn of the century, the head of the Belfast Chamber of Commerce estimated that the length of linen yarn produced in Northern Ireland would encircle the world 25,000 times. Today not threads of linen, but threads of knowledge are the means toward the partnerships that can realize a new community.

When I participated in the most recent U.S. Commerce Department trade mission here, I learned about User Technology Associates, an American company that set up its first European office in Belfast this past April. It is recruiting ~~software~~^{computer} specialists as part of a continuous 24-hour software development program: work begun in the U.S. will be passed on to Korea after eight hours, then on to Northern Ireland for another shift, then back to the U.S.

Or consider the example of Sheila McCaffrey, who in 1993 convinced the barons of Silicon Valley that rural Fermanagh could be the base for “KITE,” the first telecottage industry in Northern Ireland. She continues to build, having recently participated in a management program developed by Boston College and the University of Ulster Business School.

These developments, and dozens like them, are the fruits of partnerships between business and education. Queen's University, which has produced Nobel laureates and the President of Ireland, has links of this nature to celebrate: Questor Centre, the first industry/university environmental research center outside the U.S.; the Northern Ireland Technology Centre, dispensing training and advice to small businesses; and a recently established industrial process control laboratory, to mention a few.

Among the business initiatives with similar promise is the Business in the Community (BITC) organization, composed of top Northern Ireland firms, which assisted 50 community groups here last year. With BITC help, Seagate became involved in a partnership with the community organization Maydown Ebrington, resulting in innovative programs to train local residents for manufacturing jobs.

And as a consequence of the partnership between Ulster Carpet Mills and Drumcree Community Cooperative, an empty factory now echoes with the sound of small business start-ups. Men and women today walk across carpet laid by UCM in that old building into new businesses of their own making.

Nowhere is there greater evidence of the power of partnerships to build a new community here than at the Belfast waterfront. It is alive again. Instead of thousands marching down to toil in the shipyard, they gather in the great prow of the Waterfront Hall for world-class performances. Schools, businesses, governments, community groups, churches all contribute to the spirit and substance of what is transforming the waterfront, transforming this city

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

My glimpses of this transformation remind me of the words of Robert Kennedy when he visited South Africa:

Each of us have^[sic] our own work to do. I know at times you must feel very alone with your problems and difficulties. But I want to say how impressed I am with what you stand for and the effort you are making; and I say this not just for myself, but for men and women everywhere. And I hope you will often take heart from the knowledge that you are joined with your fellow young people in every land, they struggling with their problems and you with yours, but all joined in a common purpose; that, like the young people of my own country and of every country I have visited, you are all in many ways more closely united to the brothers of your time than to the older generations of any of these nations; and that you are determined to build a better future. President Kennedy was speaking to the young people of America, but beyond them to young people everywhere, when he said that "the energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavor will light our country and all who serve it—and the glow from that fire can truly light the world."

This is the impulse that gave resonance to President Clinton's visit here in 1995.

Let me underscore that—as this Habitat partnership builds houses and as Northern Ireland's voters consider how Friday's referendum might help build a new community here—all of us are linked, that we cannot over-estimate the power of partnerships. In Edmund Burke's estimation,

Society is a partnership in all science, a partnership in all art, a partnership in every virtue and in all perfection. As the ends of such a partnership cannot be obtained in many generations, it becomes a partnership not only between those who are living, but between those who are dead and those who are yet to be born.

Martin Luther King's words from a Birmingham jail, speak to this moment: "We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

Seamus Heaney considers that partnership between past and future generations in his poem, "Two Lorries." One is a fondly remembered coal lorry, delivering a load to his mother. The second has a different cargo: It is loaded with a bomb that will destroy a bus station. The poet poses the question:

*.....but which lorry was it now?
Young Agnew's or that other
Heavier, deadlier one, set to explode
In a time beyond her time in Magherafelt....
So tally bags and sweet-talk darkness, coalman.
Listen to the rain spit in new ashes.*

Which lorry will it be now? Which lorry will encourage the partnership that can build a new community?

As President Clinton said at the Mackies plant, "Only you can decide between division and unity, between hard lives and high hopes. Only you can create a lasting peace. It takes courage to let go of familiar divisions. It takes faith to walk down a new road."

A Spanish proverb tell us, "There are no roads. Roads are made by walking." You know from the constant interest of America's President and First Lady, from the work of Senator Mitchell, from the building you see here today, that America is walking with you.

We encourage you to walk with confidence, in a spirit of reconciliation, in building partnerships for a new community.

US-IRELAND ALLIANCE

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Trina Y. Vargo

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February 17, 2000

Ms. Shirley Sagawa
Deputy Chief of Staff
Office of the First Lady
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20502

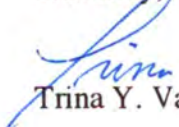
Dear Shirley,

I am writing to offer assistance to the First Lady on all things Irish.

I left Senator Kennedy less than two years ago to start the US-Ireland Alliance, a non-partisan, non-profit organization.

I'm enclosing some background on the organization. If you take a look at my op-ed piece in the Post, you'll see where I'm coming from on the issues. If I can be of any assistance, don't hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,


Trina Y. Vargo

Melanne -
I know Trina
from Kennedy
days - what should
I do with this yr?
Shirley

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1999**US-IRELAND ALLIANCE**

Year in Review

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Dear Friend,

This newsletter provides you with an update on the progress of the US-Ireland Alliance in the last year.

In the spring, we announced funding for the George J. Mitchell Scholarships and launched the first nationwide competition. During the summer, we held the inaugural US-Ireland Alliance Golf Challenge which was initiated to interest prominent American business and political leaders in Ireland. In October and November, our selection committees selected 12 Mitchell Scholars who will begin their studies on the island of Ireland in fall 2000. And in December, the Dublin premiere of the Anjelica Huston film "Agnes Browne" benefitted our organization.

In order to begin the process of introducing Americans in various cities to the US-Ireland Alliance, I visited Denver and Las Vegas last year. Many thanks to Joan Fitzgerald and Jim Lyons for their help in arranging the Denver visit and to Sean McGuinness and the Resort at Summerlin for their help in Las Vegas.

We would like to welcome our new corporate sponsors—Aer Lingus, Bank of Ireland, Foley, Hoag & Eliot, RiverDeep, and SmartForce. Their support, in addition to the longstanding support of Citywest, the Jurys Doyle Hotel Group, Elan Corporation, and the Jefferson Smurfit Group, has been crucial to our early progress. We would also like to thank the members of the Honorary and Advisory Boards who have been instrumental in our success. And we are especially grateful to the numerous individuals who have contributed their time, expertise and financial support.

If you are already a member of the US-Ireland Alliance, we are grateful for your support and hope that we can count on your continued support in the years to come. If you are not a member of the US-Ireland Alliance, we hope that you will join us.

Trina Y. Vargo
President

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National University of Ireland, Galway
Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh

Oifig an Uachtaráin
Office of the President

Ireland
Galway u

Fax Cover Sheet

To: Ms. MELANIE VERVEER, Chief of Staff to the First Lady.
Company: Office of the First Lady. Date: 16/04/99.
Fax No: 001-202-4566244 No. of Pages: 3 (Including this sheet)
Subject: Re: MAY 12 visit.
From: John Sweeney, President's Office, National University of Ireland, Galway.
Tel. +353-91-524411, ext. 2363. Fax. +353-91-524176.

Message:

Please find a letter herewith. Hard copy is in
the mail.

Please phone +353-91-750367 as soon as possible, if you do not receive all pages.



Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh
National University of Ireland, Galway

Oifig an Uachtaráin
Office of the President

16th April, 1999.

Ms. Melanie Verveer,
Chief of Staff to the First Lady,
Office of the First Lady,
The White House,
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue,
Washington D.C.
U.S.A.

Dear Melanie,

It was a pleasure talking with you yesterday afternoon. I conveyed the substance of our telephone conversation to Dr. Fottrell, who is currently travelling within Ireland, and he is very pleased with the latest news.

In accordance with your agreement, we have now initiated the process of printing and issuing the invitations. As you are aware, this will inevitably put the event, which we have successfully remained tight-lipped about, as instructed, in the public domain, to a certain degree. This will, no doubt, gain momentum as the days pass and will, obviously, generate a requirement for a press release. This, as you indicated, should not be issued until closer to the event and that we may, meanwhile, answer any enquiries simply by stating that the First Lady is committed to visiting the University. We will prepare the content of a draft release for your perusal during the course of next week and seek your clearance and further instruction with regard to same.

We are very pleased with the lecture title "*Our obligations to each other: the continuing quest for peace*" and are looking forward to it immensely.

Dr. Fottrell is grateful to you for confirmation that you will facilitate him during his proposed visit to the U.S. during the week beginning April 26th. We will discuss arrangements for his visit in the course of next week. As agreed, the logistics of the First Lady's visit can be discussed in more detail then, and detailed arrangements can be finalised here as a result. As agreed, you will revert to us on the question of breakfast/lunch.

We wish you to know Melanie, that we feel extremely honoured at National University of Ireland, Galway that the First Lady has accepted Dr. Fottrell's invitation and there is a great air of excitement and expectancy here. We will do our utmost to make her feel very welcome and give her a Cead Míle Fáilte.

Patrick F. Fottrell, Ph.D., D.Sc.,
President, National University of Ireland, Galway
Uachtarán, Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh

National University of Ireland, Galway,
Galway, Ireland.
Founded in 1845

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We are very grateful to you for all your assistance with making the visit a reality and look forward to discussing the logistics with you further in the days to come. Having obtained your agreement to proceed with the invitations, we can now begin to plan with confidence. Please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Fottrell or myself (Tel. 353-91-524090 or 353-91-750367) as the need arises.

I will contact you again during the course of next week.

With kind regards and best wishes.

Yours sincerely,



John Sweeney
Administrative Officer

Women prepare to take Ulster politics by storm

free no. Ireland

A GROUND-breaking programme set to launch Ulster women into electoral politics was unveiled at Stormont yesterday to cross-party acclaim.

Democrashe - a comprehensive and intense programme encompassing politics, policy and the media - is the brainchild of the US Northern Ireland Women's Initiative and the Ulster People's College.

Headed by three women - Ulster People's College director Bronagh Hinds, US Democrat Maureen Murray and US Republican Alexandra Lange - the fast-track scheme plans to address the lack of women in politics and launch a bid to save the peace process.

"The under-representation of women in elected positions in Northern Ireland is well documented and undermines the goal of a civilised, representative and participatory democracy," said Ms Hinds.

"Over half of the population is female, but this is not reflected in a male-

By GEMMA MURRAY

dominated political culture, where only 13 per cent of the Assembly's membership, and 16 per cent of local councillors, and none of the Westminster MPs or MEPs are women.

"Local government elections are coming up in May of next year.

"We will have worked with the eight parties before then.

"Some of them may succeed by getting elected and others won't, but they will all succeed by putting their learning into practice."

North Down MLA and Alliance Party president Eileen Bell said an initiative of this sort was something Northern Ireland had been waiting for.

"We need women in politics to add a little common sense and care, things men don't necessarily have.

"We need confident women who can come along and get things done," she said.

Daphne Trimble, from the Ulster Unionist Party, also voiced her support, claiming her party was encouraging women to come forward.

"This is a very good idea and I wish it every success," she said.

On Wednesday night, US First Lady Hillary Clinton sent a letter in support of the proposed Belfast-based political school for women.

She wrote: "Democracy in which only half the adult population fully participate is a contradiction. This programme recognises the need for women to become full participants in the political life of their communities."

Proving partnership and growth across the divide is a possibility, Democrat Maureen Murray said the fact that she and Republican Alexandra Lange were now working together should be an inspiration to women in Ulster.

"Twenty years ago we would not have got along," she said. "The fear and acrimony felt

ACTION PLAN: People's College director Bronagh Hinds at the launch of the politics initiative

Pictures: Bob Hamilton

towards opposing sides in America then was frightening."

Alexandra Lange said: "We hope to let women get ahead in a country which could truly benefit from their involvement."

Democrashe is a six-week intensive training course which includes modules in assertiveness, communications, profile-building, policy, media skills and speech writing.

Delivery will involve partners from Queen's University, Belfast, the University of Ulster and specialist trainers.

Course to bring women into politics

A US-backed course aimed at getting more women into Northern Ireland politics was due to be launched at Stormont today.

Around 170 women from most of Northern Ireland's political parties are expected to learn the "skills necessary to participate effectively in political life" in the Democrashe programme at the Ulster People's College in Belfast.

Women from the DUP and SDLP will be the first to try out the course this spring.

Northern Ireland currently has no female MPs or MEPs. The Assembly has 14 women out of a total of 108 members and the proportion of women on local councils stands at 16%.

Bronagh Hinds, one of the three women heading the programme, said: "The under-representation of women in elected positions in Northern Ireland is well documented and undermines the goal of a civilised, representative and participatory democracy."

Ms Hinds is the director of the Ulster People's College which established the scheme in partnership with the US Northern Ireland Women's Initiative.

NIWI members Maureen Murray, a Democrat, and Alexandra Lange, a US Republican, said they had long appreciated women's contribution to the peace process.

"We decided the time was right to form a non-partisan organisation to promote women in politics across Northern Ireland," she said.

Their research identified the need to develop confidence-building and political skills.

"We have been successful in attracting support from members of Congress, corporate and private donors and we anticipate that linkages among women in politics, business and the community will harness the creativity and diversity of women's experience to strengthen Northern Ireland civil society."

The Democrashe course includes modules in assertiveness and communication, profile-building, policy sessions on key issues, media skills, speech writing, IT skills and strategy sessions on selection and election.

IRAN: TRIAL OF THE 13 JEWS
April 13, 2000

What do you think of the Iranian decision to close the trial of the 13 Jews to the media and other observers? What do you think of the decision to postpone until May 1?

- The United States and the international community have consistently insisted that these individuals be accorded due process of law in any judicial proceeding against them, in keeping with internationally-recognized legal standards.
- The Iranian government has assured the international community that those arrested would receive due process.
- We join with others in the international community in calling on Iran to assure their safety and to commit to a process that ensures that they receive due process in confronting the extremely serious charges against them.

pls file: Ireland/ playground

PlayBoard

WORKING FOR THE CHILD'S RIGHT TO PLAY

FAX TRANSMISSION

To: <i>Katie Button</i>	From: <i>Caroline Mills</i>
Organisation: <i>Office of the First Lady</i>	Date: <i>18th April 2000</i>
Fax: <i>001 202 456 6244</i>	No of pages (inc cover): <i>1</i>

Dear Katie

With reference to my fax of 3rd March and to our subsequent telephone conversation, I am writing to let you know that Antoinette will not be making her anticipated trip to New York next week and will therefore not be needing to meet with Melane (I know that you were attempting to organise a meeting between the two). The Chair of PlayBoard's Play for Peace Fund will still be making the trip and will be visiting a number of potential donors himself, so the fundraising campaign in the US will still be kick-started with his visit.

Antoinette returned to work last week and asked me to pass on her thanks to you and to Mrs Clinton for the letter Mrs Clinton sent on the birth of baby Lorcan.

I have informed Antoinette of our conversation concerning the play equipment company Kaboom! have been working with in developing a play project in Rwanda and who may be interested in donating equipment for the Belfast PlaySpace. I would be grateful if you could pass any further details of this to me, including contact details for the company, as we are currently in the process of finalising the design for the site.

Finally, we are unsure about the planned fundraising event we were hoping to organise for New York and which we hoped Mrs Clinton would attend. As you can imagine, it is difficult for a Northern Irish-based charity to organise such a major event across the Atlantic! We are still optimistic about the event happening, but it could be that Mrs Clinton would be attending in her capacity as Senator as opposed to First Lady! As always, I'll endeavour to keep you informed of progress.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information or clarification on any point. I look forward to receiving details about the potential donation of play equipment.

Regards



Caroline Mills
Regional Co-ordinator (Play Policy)

PlayBoard

WORKING FOR THE CHILD'S RIGHT TO PLAY

3rd March 2000

Katie Button
Office of the First Lady
The White House
Washington DC 20500

Dear Katie

Re: The PlaySpace Project and the Play for Peace Fund

As promised in my letter dated 11th January 2000, I am writing to give you an update on what has been happening with regard to the development of the PlaySpace project in Belfast.

With regard to the development and construction of the site, we are still in negotiations with Belfast City Council, landscape architects and children in finalising plans for the buildings, equipment and play areas.

Our fundraising campaign continues, mainly in Great Britain, with PlayBoard staff and the Play for Peace Fund's Chairman targeting individuals, businesses and trusts with varying degrees of success! We have continued to receive a number of 'small' donations and are quietly optimistic of the large gifts being just around the corner!

We have been offered a wonderful opportunity to launch both the profile of the project and our fundraising campaign in the United States by the American Ireland Funds. Antoinette will be visiting New York between April 24th - 28th with the Fund's Chairman, meeting with a number of potential donors as identified by the American Ireland Funds. To this end, Antoinette has asked me to contact you in the hope that your itineraries will coincide and that she may have the chance of meeting with either yourself, Melane or even with Mrs Clinton!

I would be grateful if you could contact either Antoinette's Personal Assistant, Joanne Boyle or myself and clarify whether there would be any chance of setting up a meeting.

PlayBoard is still hoping to host a fundraising event in New York and again, we will be in contact with you when organising this as we would be delighted if Mrs Clinton could attend and show her continuing support for the project. The timescale for this event has slipped slightly, and it will probably happen mid-autumn.

Finally, Antoinette plans to return to work at the end of March, but if you need any updates or information in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards



Caroline Mills
Regional Co-ordinator (Play Policy)

MV -
should I tell them
you'll meet w/
Antoinette if she
is down in DC?

-interested
-non-traditional
but some area

yes

Ruby -
mv will meet w/
Antoinette if she
comes to D.C.

-Katy

Katy -

I checked in w/ NSC as well on this one. We'd recommend that the First Lady not write the forward for a private organization's brochure - esp. when it's their strategic plan.

But NSC is ok w/ the cover photo, as are we, b/c of NSC's views & the fact that other dignitaries

18 January 2000

Katie Button
Office of the First Lady
The White House
Washington DC 20500

Dear Katie

With reference to my letter of 11th January 2000, and Antoinette McKeown's request that Mrs Clinton considers writing the foreword for PlayBoard's strategic plan for the coming five years, I now enclose a copy of this document for consideration.

As mentioned in my previous letter, Antoinette was hoping that Mrs Clinton would continue to demonstrate her support of the work of the agency by writing the foreword for the document, which will guide the direction of the agency in its campaigns to change children's worlds through play.] 

For Mrs Clinton's information, I also enclose a few copies of the Play for Peace Fund brochure, the trust set up to raise money for the development and operation of the Musgrave Park PlaySpace project.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information. I will be on annual leave until Monday 24th January, but you can contact Antoinette's Personal Assistant, Joanne Boyle, if you require clarification on any point prior to my return to work.

Yours sincerely


PP Caroline Mills
Regional Co-ordinator (Play Policy)

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PLAY FOR PEACE



Hillary Rodham Clinton, Cherie Blair
and Antoinette McKeown launch the PlaySpace project



DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN

Draft Contents

SECTION ONE

FOREWORD (FROM KEY PLAYBOARD PATRON)

- Hillary Clinton?
- Cherie Blair?
- Trond Waage?

SECTION TWO
A STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIRPERSON & CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CHAIRPERSON – CONOR MACSHERRY	CHIEF EXECUTIVE – ANTOINETTE MCKEOWN
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SECTION THREE

PLAYBOARD'S CONTRIBUTION TO PLAY

Principles and Value Base

The principles and value base which guides the direction of PlayBoard's work are important, as they substantiate the reasons for the agency's existence and direction, as follows:

- PlayBoard believes in the child's right to play;
- PlayBoard believes that play is fundamental to the healthy development of children;
- PlayBoard believes in respecting children's opinions;
- PlayBoard is committed to the development of new approaches to children's play;
- PlayBoard is committed to meaningful participation and consultation;
- PlayBoard is committed to promoting the contribution and development of all those interested or involved in children's play;
- PlayBoard recognises the particular disadvantages faced by children in Northern Ireland as a result of social deprivation and community divisions;
- PlayBoard believes in an inter-agency approach;
- PlayBoard believes in equal opportunities throughout its work;
- PlayBoard's staff and management seek to respect and value each other's contribution and wish to work in partnership with organisation that share their values and aims (Esprit de corps)

What makes PlayBoard unique?

There are a myriad of factors that contribute to make PlayBoard unique in the field of providing for children's play, including the following:

- PlayBoard focuses exclusively on all aspects of children's play;
- PlayBoard is the only organisation that lobbies on environmental play;
- PlayBoard is the only organisation in Northern Ireland that provides a range of services in relation to children's play under one roof;
- PlayBoard has a unique level of dedicated play expertise;
- PlayBoard operates province-wide with regional offices;
- PlayBoard is proactive in addressing play issues

From small beginnings ...

PlayBoard has come a long way since its formation in 1985. PlayBoard then was one of four regional organisations set up under the auspices of the Association for Children's Play and Recreation, a UK-wide group with responsibility for co-ordinating children's play. Based in York Street in Belfast, it was in essence a small community-led organisation working primarily in the Greater Belfast area. In 1987, PlayBoard moved to premises in University Street, Belfast from where it launched itself as an independent, specialist play organisation in May 1990.

Although the PlayBoard of 1999 is many miles away from the original Association, it has remained true to the old aims and objectives. The aim of the Association for Children's Play and Recreation was to encourage and promote the development of children through play and recreation. In addition, the Association's objectives reflect the work of the current agency in that it set out to:

- promote facilities for play, recreation and other leisure time opportunities for children
- carry out, encourage, commission and publish research into children's play and recreation
- provide an educational, advisory, information and promotional service for children's play and recreation
- provide a co-ordinating and development role for voluntary organisations concerned with children's play and recreation

Similarly, the original PlayBoard was also a membership organisation, with a structure called the Play Forum that was open to all affiliates who supported the agency's objectives. The membership of the

Play Forum was made up of individuals, local and national voluntary organisations and local city and district councils, giving them the opportunity to influence the future development of children's play and recreation.

Two more moves followed before the agency found its present home. In March 1991, PlayBoard moved to premises on Belfast's Lisburn Road, Belfast and in 1994 to Dargan Industrial Estate.

... To the lead agency for children's play in Northern Ireland

PlayBoard in 1999 is a regional organisation, working throughout Northern Ireland and employing 29 members of staff in a variety of specialist roles. The agency's head office is located close to its original home in York Street, Belfast, boasting a fully equipped training room, reference library and ground-floor disabled access. PlayBoard also has two regional offices, in Armagh and rural Irvinestown, providing local support to the play field in these areas.

PlayBoard remains committed to its original aim of working for the child's right to play, achieving this through a variety of services, initiatives and demonstration projects.

PlayBoard Services

1. Development

- (i) *Development of quality play and out of school provision.*** PlayBoard has a strong track record as a development agency in the field of school-age childcare, offering specialist infrastructural development support to local communities wishing to establish out of school play schemes and PlayClubs, fixed equipment playgrounds and developing school grounds. As a development agency, PlayBoard does not directly provide play services but gives independent expert advice to playworkers and local communities, district councils, social services trusts, training organisations and government departments.
- (ii) *Outdoor and environmental playwork.*** As a development agency, PlayBoard also has a remit to both ensure the provision of more green spaces for children's play and to provide support to those working to create safe and stimulating environmental play opportunities. In so doing, PlayBoard works in partnership with community groups and local play providers to ascertain the outdoor play needs of children and young people. The agency also works alongside statutory agencies such as district councils and government departments to ensure play is on their agenda and that they fulfil their duties and responsibilities towards children's access to the environment.

- 2. *Campaigning and lobbying.*** Play, in its diversity, crosses governmental boundaries, falling within the remits of health, education, community development, sports and arts, as well as into the public, voluntary and community sectors. PlayBoard continues to act as an adviser to government on the play needs of school-age children, campaigning at local, national and European level for government recognition, which would help provide credibility and support for the play field and for a better quality of life for children in Northern Ireland. For example, the agency lobbied extensively for government here to recognise the need for formal recognition of the child's right to access his environment. This will be achieved with the implementation of the Draft Public Policy Statement on Open Space, Sport and Recreation (PPS8). The agency also lobbied successfully for additional funds to be made available to support infrastructural development support for the New Opportunities Fund in Northern Ireland.

- 3. *Information and library service.*** PlayBoard provides a responsive information service giving advice to those working in, or with an interest in children's play. Requests for information are monitored to ensure that the agency is aware of the information needs of those working in or studying the field of children's play. In addition, PlayBoard offers a specialist reference library with over 1000 publications on play and other children's issues. Full details of the library resources are recorded on a database, allowing searches of the classification system to be

made. In addition, subject guides are provided, giving details of the indexing system used and information on the full library stock.

4. **Member services.** PlayBoard remains a membership organisation, with around 200 affiliates drawn from the voluntary and community sector, private and commercial organisations, schools and colleges, students and the unemployed – indeed, anyone working or with an interest in children's play. PlayBoard is committed to undertaking a review of member services to find out how affiliates view the agency and what services they actually want PlayBoard to provide. The review of member services will also facilitate PlayBoard's growth as a regional organisation, with regional objectives and services to meet specific local needs, including the rotation of conferences and events across the Province. In addition, PlayBoard is taking steps to implement a 'comments system', which will provide members with a formal forum for making comments or complaints about PlayBoard's services.
5. **Training.** PlayBoard have long advocated for those employed in the playwork field to have the opportunity to avail of NVQ qualifications and accredited training. The agency has always provided information and advice to playworkers and ensured that professional support was available to enable them to gain knowledge, skills and expertise. PlayBoard is currently developing the first training and assessment infrastructure for Playwork NVQ's in Northern Ireland. To take this work forward, and to help raise the standard of play provision, PlayBoard's specialist Training Unit provides training materials and delivers training as well as undertaking assessments and portfolio development.
6. **Play Development Services (PDS).** PlayBoard was one of the first voluntary sector agencies to formalise relationships with community and commercial consultants. Through its consultancy unit, PDS, PlayBoard offers expertise in a diverse range of play development and related areas through a highly skilled team of ten consultants. The consultancy service is available not only to those working in the play field, but also to private and commercial organisations who are becoming increasingly aware of 'green' issues and the need to provide child-friendly environments. A wide range of skills and services is on offer – including playground inspection, direct training in play and playwork and business planning for community play schemes. In addition, PlayBoard as RoSPA's agent in Northern Ireland also offers a design, development and advice service to local councils on the development of fixed play equipment and environmental playgrounds. To date, the agency enjoys ongoing positive working relationships with 12 district councils across Northern Ireland who have availed of this service.

The same old challenges

Looking back over the agency's history, it is apparent that many of the philosophical issues that originally gave rise to PlayBoard, an organisation that was geared to foster and promote play facilities, remain of concern today. For example in 1986, one year into its operation, PlayBoard was concerned about:

- constant under-resourcing in terms of funding, training and resources for children's play;
- the lack of fresh approaches to planning for children's play;
- environments that were hostile to children;
- the exclusion of children from the planning and development of local environments;
- the lack of progress of play policy development by city, district and borough councils;
- the impact of sectarianism on children's play and recreation;
- the low standard and poor quality of play provision throughout Northern Ireland;
- the lack of adequate outdoor play provision, and related problems of design, accessibility, insurance and maintenance;
- the need for increased collaboration and information between agencies regarding children's play.

Whilst progress has been made on many of these issues, they still remain key for PlayBoard today. However, central government has at last acknowledged the need for quality provision for school-age children, providing cash injections for the implementation and development of out-of-school clubs. The therapeutic value of play for children affected by 'the troubles' has been acknowledged. As well as promoting play as a valuable activity in its own right, PlayBoard is promoting play as an ideal medium through which values of understanding, acceptance, mutual respect and tolerance can be fostered – values that have much to contribute to the process of building a more peaceful society in Northern Ireland. Seven local councils are actively working towards the implementation of play policies for their communities, with one policy already in place. And PlayBoard's work in pushing for quality outdoor and environmental play provision has led to the agency receiving support from the First Lady of the United States, Hillary Clinton and Cherie Blair, wife of the British Prime Minister.

Despite lack of core funding from government, PlayBoard continues to advocate and fundraise for:

- play which is "freely chosen, personally driven and intrinsically motivated" (Hughes)
- encouraging personal choice for children through a comprehensive range of play activities
- equal and appropriate provision for play, care and education in appropriate measures
- the child's participation in the design and planning of play provision
- adherence to principles of quality and equity

Why PlayBoard does what it does

Social Policy Context

The social policy context in which PlayBoard works to meet the play and care needs of school-age children in Northern Ireland is complex. Recent legislative changes mean that the work of the agency is governed by a number of social policy issues.

1. UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

In 1989, the United Nations General Assembly passed unanimously the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Convention, which is legally binding on countries that sign up to it, was ratified by the UK Government on 16th December 1991. The Convention sets out a number of Articles which establish and protect the rights of children and young people under 18 years of age. Most important to the work of PlayBoard is Article 31, which defines the right of the child to participate in leisure, play, cultural and artistic activities:

- "1. State Parties recognise the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.**
- "2. State Parties shall ... encourage the provision of appropriate a equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity".**

Further principles state that all rights guaranteed by the Convention must be available to all children without any form of discrimination (Article 2); that the best interests of the child must be a primary consideration in all actions concerning them (Article 3); and that children's views must be taken into account in all matters affecting them (Article 12).

Consequently, providers of leisure and play services must ensure that such provision is sufficiently resourced, age-appropriate and equally accessible for all children and young people. Additionally, regular reviews of existing provision, together with consultation with children and young people using facilities, is necessary to ensure that provision closely reflects actual need.

Despite the UK Government ratifying the Convention, Article 31 has not had any significant impact on the level of services to school aged children in Northern Ireland, despite the region's young school starting age and the high population in this age range.

2. Charter for Children's Play for Northern Ireland

To counteract the limited implementation of Article 31 by statutory agencies in Northern Ireland, in 1994 PlayBoard and Save the Children jointly launched a Charter for Children's Play that reflects the principles of the UN Convention and provides the first regional policy for play in Northern Ireland.

The Charter identifies issues that need to be addressed and offers specific improvements which are necessary to increase play opportunities in Northern Ireland. Ten key issues relating to play were identified as follows:

- funding
- children and parents – models of consultation
- quality through equality – equal opportunities
- health and safety
- environment
- play services
- other services for children
- training and education for play
- play in schools
- play in hospitals

Whilst the Charter has been endorsed by the relevant statutory agencies, at a practical level the development of funding structures and mechanisms to develop quality play services in line with the UN Convention have still much progress to make.

3. Children (NI) Order 1995

The Children (NI) Order 1995, which became law in Northern Ireland in October 1996, represents a significant legislative change and is one of the most important reforms of children's laws in Northern Ireland. It brings together, for the first time, the law relating to the care, protection and upbringing of children, addressing a wide range of situations from protection children from physical and sexual abuse through to providing support to help keep families together when times are difficult. The Order is primarily concerned with State intervention in children's welfare and focuses on a number of key principles, "the five P's":

- **Paramourcy** – child's welfare should be **paramount** at all times;
- **Parental Responsibility** – the upbringing of children is primarily the responsibility of **parents** and emphasis is placed on caring for children within the context of the family;
- **Prevention** – situations where children are separated from their families are to be **prevented**. The State should provide services to enable children to stay within their families and to promote their health and welfare;
- **Protection** – in situations where there is concern that a child could suffer 'significant harm', Boards have a responsibility to investigate. Children should be 'safe' and, if in danger, be **protected** by intervention;
- **Partnership** – local authorities are required to work in **partnership** with parents and other professionals in carrying out the requirements of the Order.

With regard to the work of PlayBoard, the Children Order regulations and guidance give specific recognition to the importance of, and have an increasing impact on, children's play as the Order encompasses the role of leisure and play services in its provision of services to children and their families. The Order also provides that services to 'children in need' must be delivered up to the age of 12 years, as opposed to 8 years of age under the Children Act (1989) in England and Wales.

Given the full inclusion of primary school age children in the legislation here, it is even more critical that the play needs of children are given equal attention to their care and education so that a truly holistic interpretation is given to the Children Order's stipulation on "healthy development". The Children Order has focused largely on children in need due to budgetary constraints, however, Boards and Trusts in Northern Ireland have provided for an inclusive interpretation of "in need" demonstrated in Children's Services planning.

The Children Order has provided a legal framework which, for the first time, recognises the right of the child to play and its impact on healthy development for the first time. It is therefore vital that outdoor and unstructured play is included in Children's Services plans throughout Northern Ireland. This can be further developed through closer and more formalised links with local councils already providing a range of free play services to local communities.

4. Education Acts

Educational establishments offer great potential for use as facilities for children's play and recreation outside the formal education curriculum. However, these facilities remain under-utilised. Recent Education Acts have conspired to create a climate which will change the role of play, physical education and sport in schools and create links between schools and communities.

The Education Act (1986) encouraged greater use of school facilities by the wider community. However, the Education Reform Act (1989) contradicts this, having implications in two main areas:

- (i) the introduction of a National Curriculum provides both opportunities and threats. With attention focused on meeting national standards of attainment, play, physical education and extra-curricular activities may suffer a demise in the pursuit of academia. Consequently, play and leisure may lose out in the process.
- (ii) Local Management of Schools (LMS) places the finance and management of schools under the direct responsibility of a Board of Governors. Therefore, schools are forced to charge full hire costs for the use of their facilities outside of school hours. After-schools clubs or community-based play/sport/leisure groups who make use of school facilities will find it increasingly difficult to afford the fees requested by schools. Consequently, some community-based play and recreation groups may be forced to withdraw their services.

It is essential that the benefits and principles of play and leisure are not lost in the pressure to meet education attainment targets, and that available facilities and resources are utilised to their full potential by developing partnerships between Education and Library Boards, schools and communities.

5. Youth Service Policy

The Youth Service has a responsibility to provide services to children and young people aged 5-25 years. This includes out of school play and social education provision, mainly in afterschool clubs.

The Youth Service has to date focused on providing a universal service mainly to the ten plus age range and did not develop its' service to the lower age range, stating budgetary constraints as the main reason for this. Therefore the policy framework was there in theory but did not prove successful in establishing a more diverse range of age appropriate play and social education activities for primary school age children.

The current Youth Service Policy review has taken account of the needs of the younger age range and is expected to recommend maintenance of the current age range. The new Policy is set to be implemented in 2000.

6. Early Years Services

School age childcare and supervised play comes under the remit of the Interdepartmental Group for Early Years, with representation from DHSS, DENI and T&EA. This group is responsible for regional policy issues relating to children aged 0-12 years, including the Policy for Early Years provision in Northern Ireland, which was jointly published in 1994.

This policy did provide for school age children but initially had a stated priority for pre-school provision which ensured that services were targeted at this age range. However, the new Childcare Strategy for Northern Ireland, "Children First", has largely replaced the Policy for Early Years Provision. The Strategy takes account of children aged up to 14 and in exceptional circumstances 16 years, and is therefore more reflective of the playwork age range, recognising the differing needs of children and their families in today's society. Area Early Years Committees, established in each Health & Social Services Board area simultaneously to the development and implementation of the 1994 Policy, also

focused mainly on childcare and pre-school services in response to the Policy and therefore did not spend much time on play services.

The new Regional Childcare Strategy requires the re-augmentation of Area Early Years Committees to take account of the higher age range and wider interests, such as local business. New Childcare Partnerships will have responsibility for local implementation of "Children First". The fact that they will also have responsibility for Children's Services Planning should help to ensure that the childcare and economic focus of the Regional Childcare Strategy is balanced with a wider, more holistic view of the needs of children in reaching their full potential, including their right to free play.

7. Play Space and Children's Access to the Environment

Research undertaken on behalf of the Joseph Rowntree Trust in 1997 found that children access to the environment in the UK has shrunk ninefold in the past twenty years. PlayBoard argues that the political environment here has decreased access even further for children in Northern Ireland. It is crucial, therefore, that children's needs in the local planning service are fully taken into account.

The DOE has published two policy documents that have the potential to greatly impact on quality environmental play provision.

(i) Shaping our Future – a Draft Regional Strategic Framework for Northern Ireland

The DoE (NI) Planning Service produced the Draft Regional Strategic Framework for Northern Ireland in December 1998. This document is intended to provide a strategic planning framework for Development Plans as well as strengthening the region's economy and tackling disadvantage. It contains thirty Strategic Planning Guidelines (SPG) which detail a diverse range of objectives and are aimed at providing long-term direction for the entire community.

The Local Community Development Guidelines referred to within the Strategy highlight six important elements which together contribute towards quality built environments. One of these, **Amenity**, proposes:

"the building up of a fine grained pattern of public open spaces, play facilities and landscaped areas, woodland and wildlife habitats, pedestrian and cycle routes, as well as respecting the rural setting of towns and villages".

For the first time ever, a DoE policy framework recognises the right of children to access their environment and the need to take account of children in future planning.

(ii) The Draft Planning Policy Statement on Open Space, Sport and Recreation (PPS8)

This draft public policy statement sets out a legislative guide for the protection and use of public, open spaces and specifically includes children's access to play and the need for this to be incorporated into new housing developments. If implemented, the Policy Statement will protect the right of children to open play space and will give specific responsibilities to councils, sports providers, housing developers and the Planning Service in relation to protecting and providing for open spaces.

SECTION FOUR

MISSION STATEMENT

PlayBoard's mission statement explains what the agency is and what it aspires to do. It is concise, motivational and engaging and brings focus to PlayBoard's activities. In addition, it recognises the potential of high quality play provision for producing both happier children and adults, namely:

“Changing the child's world through play”.

In the wider perspective, the mission statement acknowledges the fact that providing natural access to play should result in a healthier society – that good play provision can impact on reducing poverty and crime, lowering health service costs, creating longevity, developing a sense of community and citizenship and helping children grow up with a more balanced perspective.

FIVE YEAR PLAN

For the purpose of developing workable and meaningful objectives for the organisation in general, and staff in particular, this Strategic Plan sets out three long-term aims relating to the agency's key functions which PlayBoard aims to achieve within the next five years. In addition, each long-term aim has an associated long-term objective to be achieved within the next two years and a range of short-term objectives to be achieved within the coming year.

Long-term aim 1: Influence and Advocacy	
<i>To ensure that 15% of children aged 4 to 16 years have access to funded play by 2005</i>	
Long-term objective associated with long term aim 1 (to be achieved by 2002)	That 5% of 4-16 year olds have access to funded play provision
Associated short-term objectives (to be achieved by 2001)	• Detailed review of membership services and a rationalisation of these within the objective of achieving 250 members • Secured a contract from AEYC for NOF • Secured formal consultee status from DOE • Ensured that the 121 existing and new play clubs continue to operate and have staff trained in certain key skills • Established a baseline position on play for future analysis purposes • Commitment from 20 District Councils to a regional play policy • First home zone in Northern Ireland established • Produced a charter on outdoor play • One district council to have adopted a charter for play • Have obtained 100% of funding for Musgrave Park PlaySpace • Have obtained 25% funding for the Cookstown PlaySpace • Have identified sites for PlaySpaces in 10 District Council areas

Long-term aim 2: Development and Resources <i>To ensure that 20% of children aged 4 to 16 years have access to play provision that fulfils PlayBoard quality standards by 2005</i>	
Long-term objective associated with long term aim 2 (to be achieved by 2002)	That 5% of children should have access to quality approved play
Associated short-term objectives (to be achieved by 2001)	• 20 trainers trained to deliver playwork training and assessment to D32/D33 and D34 level • 150 people trained to NVQ Level II or III in playwork by 2002 • Have trained 100 people in quality assurance skills for playwork • Have completed a training needs analysis for all 120 playclubs • Carried out 48 training days on a regional basis during the year • Developed and delivered a foundation playwork course for the Youth Service • Piloted an 'orientation programme' • Assessment criteria finalised for quality standards of playclubs and have delivered to all existing clubs • Establishment of 10 regional training partnerships • Training packs for six new courses developed • One member of PlayBoard staff trained in environmental play • Establishment of a Play Policy Unit • 10 district councils to have adopted a local play policy • All second tranche P&R funded clubs in operation • Three key employers to have adopted PlayCare policies, with a further ten actively considering such policies • Secured NOF funding for all existing playclubs • Secured P&R II funding for all clubs • Produced four major publications and six information leaflets • Have successfully lobbied government, leading to a green paper on a "Commissioner for Children" • Further floor of office space in the PlayBoard building completed (by 2002) • Have completed two monitoring visits per playclub, per year • Have achieved a 95% return of information required for ESF monitoring
Long-term aim 3: <i>PlayBoard to be the lead agency for play in the island of Ireland by 2005</i>	
Long-term objective associated with long term aim 3 (to be achieved by 2002)	That PlayBoard has 50 member organisations in the Republic of Ireland by 2002
Associated short-term objectives (to be achieved by 2001)	• Contact made with each County Council and City Corporation in RoI • Have held seminars in RoI on environmental play and PlayCare • PlayBoard to have taken part in four conferences organised by other organisations • Have become familiar with relevant legislation/government policy/cultural attitudes • Have established a relationship with the ROI government Departments of Health, Education and the Environment

Measuring activities and managing performance

To ensure that the strategy and action plans are updated on a regular basis and continue to be relevant to the PlayBoard's needs, the following process will be undertaken:

- Action plans will be linked to individual monthly management support sessions to ensure that staff is provided with adequate support to deliver their actions. When implemented, the formal appraisal system will also be used to measure staff's performance in meeting objectives
- Action plans will be reviewed on a monthly basis with individual staff and changes will be documented
- The senior management team will review the action plan position on a monthly basis and will have a responsibility for updating overall action plans at this stage.
- The senior management team will carry out a six monthly review of short-term objectives. This review will be presented to the whole staff team and approved or amended accordingly.
- An annual strategy review will be held, involving the full team. This will look at PlayBoard's role, long and short-term objectives and the development of new action plans if needed.

SECTION FIVE

IDENTIFICATION OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Since its inception, PlayBoard has worked with a wide variety of stakeholders to ensure that the play needs of children in Northern Ireland are put on the agenda. With this Strategic Plan, the agency has taken the decision to identify key stakeholders, as this will help chart the direction of PlayBoard's work over the coming years. Identification of stakeholders will also help PlayBoard both embrace opportunities and overcome threats that exist in the environment in which the agency operates.

Key stakeholders for PlayBoard are many and varied. They obviously include the client groups PlayBoard aims to serve as well as those agencies whose own aims run in parallel to PlayBoard projects and initiatives.

EXTERNAL

1. Children and the community

Children: The 1991 census reveals that Northern Ireland has one of the youngest populations in the EC with 24.3% of the population under the age of 15, as well as the youngest school starting age in the UK. Due to the political instability and sectarian violence, children's access to safe outdoor play opportunities has been severely limited, whilst increased urbanisation and traffic levels have placed restrictions on children's ability to play safely outside their home.

PlayBoard's pledge to children:

- *PlayBoard will continue to work as an advocate for children, making sure that their voice is heard and that their views are represented*
- *PlayBoard will continue to consult with children, making sure that their play needs are taken into consideration before the implementation of any project*
- *PlayBoard will continue to lobby for political representation for children within new political structures, including the appointment of an independent Commissioner for Children*

Community-based play providers: Northern Ireland is one of the smallest and poorest regions in the UK and until recently, one of the least prosperous regions in the EU. In many communities, thirty years of community conflict and sectarian violence has taken its toll and compounded the many economic and social problems existing, such as a high degree of long-term unemployment, low educational attainment and workforce skills base. The Province also has the largest average household size together with the lowest average household income in the UK, whilst increases in urbanisation, traffic and pollution levels have reduced available play space for children.

PlayBoard's pledge to community-based play providers:

- *PlayBoard will work with community-based play providers, liaising closely with them and with the communities they serve in order to determine the level and type of play and care provision required*
- *PlayBoard will continue to use local findings to inform its advocacy, campaigning and lobbying work on behalf of local communities*
- *PlayBoard will continue to recognise the contribution of community-based play providers in counteracting levels of deprivation and violence faced by children through the provision of high quality play opportunities*
- *PlayBoard will continue to facilitate contact between community-based play providers and the statutory sector*
- *PlayBoard will continue to consult with community-based play providers and to represent their views and wishes to the statutory sector*

2. Government departments

The context in which PlayBoard works towards meeting the play needs of school-age children is fragmented and diverse. Statutory responsibility for policy and strategy on Play in Northern Ireland is not the responsibility of one single agency, but many agencies have a particular one-faceted remit for a single component of play provision and policy. The new governmental structures in Northern Ireland mean that while some relationships with departments will remain the same, other strands of our work may go elsewhere. This will require the development of new relationships with public servants as well as Ministers and Committees. It may also require us to make our case afresh in some areas. However, we welcome the new opportunities that will undoubtedly be afforded, with new local Assembly members, cross-border opportunities and with new bodies such as Human Rights Commission and the British-Irish Council.

We will be continuing our work with: the Department for Education for Northern Ireland (DENI) through the Youth Council and the Youth Service, and with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety. We will also be building on our previous relations within old departments with the new ones: the Department of Higher and Further Education, Training and Employment; the Departments of Social Development and of Regional Development.

Department of Education for Northern Ireland

DENI has hitherto been named as the lead government department for Northern Ireland in terms of play issues and has a remit for meeting this through out of school activities. PlayBoard will be seeking to work with the Minister for and Department of Education for Northern Ireland towards making progress in the following key areas:

- A policy statement on play and playwork provision etc (as before).

Department of Higher Education, Training and Employment

In 1995, the Training and Employment Agency (then linked to the Department for Economic Development) commissioned PlayBoard to develop a strategy for the development of an infrastructure of out-of-school PlayCare clubs...etc (as before).

Policies for training and employment have now become the responsibility of the Department of Higher Education, Training and Employment. At the time of writing, it is not yet known whether the T&EA will retain its separate agency status. Nevertheless, we will be urging the new department, personnel and Minister to realise the following objectives:

- To commit to mainstream support for PlayClubs in local communities, in recognition of their role in facilitating access to training and employment.
- Support PlayBoard's role in training individuals to enable them to attain NVQ's in play and playwork.
- Participate as a key partner in the development of a Policy for Children's Play in Northern Ireland.

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

In 1994, the DHSS, alongside the Department of Education for Northern Ireland, published the Interdepartmental Policy on Early Years Provision for Northern Ireland. The DHSS was the lead body for the implementation of this policy, through the establishment of four Area Early Years Committees within each of the Health and Social Services Board Areas. The DHSS has an interest in PlayCare to enable the department to meet government objectives for out of school provision under the Children Order and new initiatives. The Department also has a key remit for health promotion and development and is responsible for the "Well into 2000" strategy for Northern Ireland.

PlayBoard will continue to urge Health & Social Services:

- *to support PlayBoard's development role in out of school PlayCare provision by providing endorsement and financial assistance for the agency's Quality Assurance Scheme*
- *to encourage the inclusion of play in Children's Services Plans*
- *to participate as a key partner in the development of a Policy for Children's Play*
- *to recognise the central role of children's play in mental and physical healthy development as part of implementing "Well into 2000"*

Departments of Social Development and Department of Regional Development

Previously, the Department of the Environment was an important stakeholder in children's play. Indeed, as a result of PlayBoard's constructive approach, the DoE's Transport Policy White Paper cites a home zones pilot project as one of its key objectives. The department's strategy document *Shaping the Future*, aimed at directing policy over the next twenty years in Northern Ireland has already made an important contribution to recognising that children are the largest users of the outdoor environment.

However, the departmental re-structuring has seen most of the DoE's responsibilities go three ways. It is the two departments above which will be most relevant to PlayBoard. PlayBoard continues to lobby for the need for communal open spaces and play areas to be integrated within residential areas in new housing builds. This will be of greatest concern to the Department of Social Development, which will now have responsibility for urban regeneration as well as housing policy, partnerships and the community sector. However, it will be crucial to integrate these with the work of the Department for Regional Development, which will have responsibility for strategic planning, roads and transport strategy in Northern Ireland.

PlayBoard will be seeking to work with both Departments in our two key objectives:

- Charter for Planning on Outdoor Play
- To have established an urban and a rural site under the PlaySpace Initiative

We will also be calling on both departments to make progress in these following areas:

- A key policy statement on children's access to the environment recognising their right to play as outlined in article 31 of the UN Convention.
- To appoint PlayBoard as a formal consultee in the planning process at ... stages, in a similar role to RSPB. (Department of Regional Development)
- To introduce a Play Impact Statement to new housing development (Department of Social Development)
- To support the establishment of a Home Zone, within existing legislation in Northern Ireland (both departments)

In the longer term...

- To amend current legislation to allow for equal access for pedestrians as motorists in residential streets and the introduction of 10mph speed limits facilitating children's play in inner city and urban residential streets (both departments)

Cross-Border Opportunities

We welcome the potential opportunities presented by this new dimension of Government in Northern Ireland in relation to PlayBoard's future work as an island of Ireland organisation. We will endeavour to establish relationships with the North/South Ministerial Council and the British/Irish Council as soon as they come into effect, as well as with relevant departments in the Republic of Ireland. We will begin the process of building relationships and establishing partnerships in our Europe-wide ENSAC conference to be held in Belfast in 1999.

We also note and welcome the fact that the North-South Ministerial Council has identified the areas of **Education** and **Special EU Programmes** as two of six for co-operation through existing bodies in Northern Ireland and the Republic.

Education

Education for children with special needs.

- Educational underachievement
- Teacher qualifications
- School
- Youth and Teacher Exchanges

PlayBoard will investigate future opportunities in this jurisdiction and believe that we will be well placed to contribute to debate and to take advantage of new opportunities which may be presented in the field of play and education on an all-island basis.

Special EU programmes

- Advise North/South Ministerial Council and Departments of Finance on Community initiatives, post- 1999.
- Preparing proposals under new Community initiatives – (INTERREG III, LEADER III, EQUAL and possible a successor to P&R)
- Provide monitoring, research, evaluation and technical assistance in the above.
- Grant-making and managerial functions under INTERREG III.

We shall explore the potential for funding from these sources for appropriate PlayBoard projects as well as in the context of development strategies for projects currently funded by EUSSFPR.

The Human Rights and Equality Commissions and Civic Forum

At the time of writing, the appointment of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commissioner has just been announced. Further clarification on the remit, structure and priorities of the Civic Forum is still awaited. As well as promoting these core issues with Assembly members, the Central Policy Innovation Unit and other Ministers, we will investigate the potential role of these bodies in achieving the following objectives.

- *An Ombudsperson/Commissioner for Children*
- *Children's Parliament*
- *Equal rights for play as for education and care.*
- *Action on implementation of Article 31 of UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.*

European Union

Until recently, Northern Ireland had Objective 1 status, indicating its position as one of the least prosperous regions in the EU. Although this has changed, the new climate created by the Belfast Agreement has created further impetus for reconstruction in our society. The European Union has primarily focused on funding employment-led economic programmes and initiatives. The Special Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation was a departure from that focus and enabled the voluntary sector to demonstrate our worth and our effectiveness in promoting employment and social inclusion in local communities. The method of distributing these funds has been an important demonstration of partnership in action, and a process in which the voluntary sector was a key participant. We shall continue to stress the importance of this process. The EU is currently consulting on the delivery of the structural funds post 2000.

PlayBoard urges the European Union

- *to continue to fund parental access to the labour market through funding PlayCare provision in Northern Ireland which has the lowest level of childcare in the EU.*
- *to include a social inclusion element to the Structural Funds in recognition of the fact that social and economic factors impinging on regeneration are not mutually exclusive.*
- *to take account of the rights of children when funding large environmental projects such as physical infrastructure and industry.*

Members of Parliament and Northern Ireland Assembly Members

Members of Parliament at both local and national level are important external stakeholders for PlayBoard, as play crosses governmental boundaries and falls within the remits of health, education, community development, sports and arts. In addition, the Labour Government has launched many new initiatives which impact strongly on children's lives, including the Regional ChildCare Strategy, New Deal and New Opportunities Fund, and the Government has an obligation to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

PlayBoard will be communicating the following to MPs and NI Assembly Members

Members of Parliament and Assembly Members could review the rights and needs of children in Northern Ireland society, and to work towards meeting those rights and needs. Progress is still required on the implementation of Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the influence and support of political representatives is needed to ensure that quality, age-appropriate play provision is available for every child living in the region.

- *To prioritise the implementation of a policy for children's play in Northern Ireland, allocating resources to ensure its' implementation.*
- *To review legislation that is detrimental to children and contrary to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.*
- *To establish an Ombudsman for Children in Northern Ireland, giving children access to independent judicial review.*
- *To fund PlayBoard to the same standard as play services in England.*

Health & Social Services Boards and Trusts

The Children (NI) Order makes statutory provision for children aged from 0-12 years, with the regulations and guidance giving specific recognition to the importance of play.

PlayBoard wishes Health & Social Services Boards and Trusts:

- *to purchase places from PlayClubs for children in need aged 4-14.*
- *to include children's access to play as an integral part of Children's Services Plans.*
- *to support local councils in implementing play policies through representation on Play Advisory Committees.*
- *to measure the particular registration and inspection requirements of school age provision.*

District and Borough Councils

Recent acknowledgements as to the importance of play to the child's healthy development, together with demands from community groups, have led to many District and Borough Councils seeking to implement play policies for their local areas. In addition, councils retain responsibility for the provision of outdoor play.

PlayBoard requests that City, District and Borough Councils:

- *submit letters of support to PlayBoard in respect of a regional Policy for Children's Play.*
- *develop a local Policy for Children's Play relevant to the children in the district council area.*
- *participate and financially support a regional play audit, which will identify models of good practice and gaps in play provision across Northern Ireland.*

Childcare Partnerships

There have been many recent changes to Area Early Years Committees and an ambitious workload, including re-augmentation to Childcare Partnerships, responsibility for the development of Children's Services plans and the local implementation of "Children First". Two major initiatives, namely the Pre-school Education Expansion programme and the New Opportunities Fund also require management by the new Childcare partnerships. PlayBoard is committed to working as a key member of the new Childcare partnerships, offering support and services as appropriate. In return, PlayBoard will call on the partnerships to work towards the following:-

- *The development of a regional standardised Quality Assurance Scheme for school age play and childcare, in partnership with PlayBoard, the DHSS and SSI.*
- *To include a statement in Children's Services Plans on the vital contribution of free play in the healthy development of children.*
- *To undertake a quantitative and qualitative audit of out of school provision in their area, as part of an ongoing commitment to providing appropriate services and making best use of existing resources available to school age children.*

Education and Library Boards

PlayBoard's work with Education and Library Boards is two fold: directly with individual primary schools which are members of the agency, which use our services in playground development and playwork training, and secondly; with the local youth service as a service provider under current Youth Service Policy and to collaborate in the development of out of school clubs within youth clubs. PlayBoard wishes to develop this relationship further in our role as infrastructural development support agency for the New Opportunities Fund here. We also urge Education and Library Boards to:

- *formally recognise the age appropriateness of a playwork curriculum for primary school age children accessing Youth Service provision*
- *support the development of the climbing framework of qualifications and to work with PlayBoard to develop a playwork course which takes account of existing core skills of youth workers.*

Business and employers

There is a strong business case for employers contributing towards the childcare needs of their workforce. PlayBoard actively encourages employers to review their employment practices in an attempt to help them become more 'family friendly'. The agency also assists employers who wish to carry out childcare needs surveys, and works to encourage employers to buy childcare places in PlayClubs for the children of their employees.

PlayBoard continues to urge businesses and employers:

- *to conduct childcare needs surveys of their workforce, in order to identify the problems their staff encounter in attempting to balance work and family responsibilities.*
- *to recognise the business benefits of PlayCare through the purchase of childcare places for the children of their workforce from local PlayClubs.*

INTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

PlayBoard also has a number of key internal stakeholders to whom many others actions and responsibilities are directed.

1. Information on members

PlayBoard, as a membership organisation, has a responsibility to its affiliates who underpin and direct the work of the agency. To this end, members are key internal stakeholders of PlayBoard and the agency is committed to:

- *undertaking a review of member services to ensure that local play needs are being met by the agency*
- *the 'regionalisation' of member services*
- *continuing to campaign and lobby with government at local, national and European level to promote the value of play and to improve the profile of those working in the play field*
- *campaigning for additional funds to ensure local demands for play facilities are met*
- *to the implementation of a complaints system, giving members a formal process for making comments or complaints about PlayBoard's services*

2. Staff

PlayBoard's staff is obviously the biggest and most important asset that the agency has. PlayBoard has a regional staff complement of 30 members of staff in three offices with the diverse range of skills, qualifications and expertise which makes the agency unique in Northern Ireland. The first

commitment of staff is to "changing the child's world through play" and therefore our pledge to children and their communities cited at the beginning of this chapter remains the most crucial and indeed informs our work. In recognition of the commitment of staff, the agency pledges to:

- *Develop each member of staff both professionally and personally as far as is practically possible*
- *Implement all policies, procedures and conditions of service with equality of opportunity and the welfare of staff as the key priority.*

3. Board of Directors

PlayBoard elects up to ten Board members and co-opts a further four every two years. The agency elects the Board directly from the membership and is therefore accountable directly to the membership. PlayBoard maintains a large proportion of Directors from community based organisations but also recognises the need for skills of people from business, finance, legal, marketing and academia to complement the agency's expertise in play provision and to offer specialist, expert advice with the interests of PlayBoard at the core. PlayBoard currently boasts the above complement of experts on its' Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors have ultimate responsibility for PlayBoard financially and legally and all staff are accountable to the Board through the Chief Executive. The Board must provide members with audited accounts each year. The Board is also responsible for company policy. Given the weighty responsibility of the Board of Directors,, the agency's Chairperson prioritises the management of a Board which places the interests of PlayBoard first always – this is the Chair's pledge to members. The Board also pledges to:

- *ensure that the agency remains an independent, campaigning organisation which puts the child's right to play at the heart of company policy*
- *ensure that the agency remains accountable to its' members*
- *publish accurate, audited accounts annually*
- *support management in protecting the welfare of all staff and to developing staff personally and professionally so that members receive the highest standard of service.*

4. PlayBoard Sister Organisations

The agency has benefited greatly from a range of sister organisations with the UK and in Europe. PlayBoard is a member of the Four Nations Group of School Age Childcare and the UK Play Policy Forum, both of which advise government. The agency is also a member of the European Network of School Aged Childcare and has formalised links with sister organisations across Europe and the USA. PlayBoard meets with sister organisations regularly and exchanges information on regional and national policies, strategies and areas of good practice world-wide on play and school age provision. PlayBoard pledges to:

- *continue supporting and exchanging information with sister organisations to develop quality play provision*
- *continue sharing our contacts with sister organisations and members in Northern Ireland so that members can benefit from working in other regions*
- *continue providing information to members on good practice in other regions world-wide.*

SECTION SIX

CONSULTING FOR QUALITY

The Consultation Process

PlayBoard will be sending this draft Strategic Plan to a wide variety of groups and individuals, including the agency's current and potential stakeholders. PlayBoard will also supply the draft Strategic Plan to anyone who specifically requests a copy under the consultation process.

The agency would welcome comments on any aspect of the draft Strategic Plan. We will consider carefully all comments received before issuing a final version of the Strategic Plan later in the year.

**Please note the closing date for comments on this draft
Strategic Plan is 29th February 2000.**

Comments should be made in writing only to:

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Proteus	Proteus
Training for Women Network	TWN
Youth Council for Northern Ireland	YCNi