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IMMEDIATE

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WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

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PRT: SODERBERG

SIT: NSC PETERS SUM2 VERSHBOW

<PREC> IMMEDIATE <CLAS> UNCLASSIFIED <DTG> 291110Z JAN 96

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9419
INFO RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 3636
RUEHBL/AMCONSUL BELFAST 3824
UNCLAS DUBLIN 000448

NSC FOR NANCY SODERBERG FROM AMBASSADOR JEAN KENNEDY SMITH

ALSO FOR MARY ANN PETERS

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR:UBI AND S/IR FOR SENATOR MITCHELL

USDOC FOR 4220/ITA/IEP/CMEISSNER/VMANUEL
USDOC FOR 4212/IEP/EUR/OWE/IRELAND/RMCLAUGHLIN
USDOC FOR 3133/FCS/OIO/EUR/NNEGRETTI

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, PHUM, ETRD, EFIN, IR, UK

SUBJECT: FOLLOW-UP TO PRESIDENT CLINTON'S VISIT

1. NANCY: THE VISIT OF USDOC A/S CHARLES MEISSNER LAST FRIDAY FOCUSSED EVERYONE'S ATTENTION AGAIN ON THE NEED TO MOVE FORWARD QUICKLY ON THE CHICAGO CONFERENCE. THE PROBLEMS FACING THE PEACE PROCESS AT THE MOMENT ALSO MAKE CONTINUED PROGRESS ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT EVEN MORE OF AN IMPERATIVE. IT WAS CLEAR FROM CHUCK'S MEETINGS WITH MINISTER OF FINANCE RUAIRI QUINN AND OTHERS THAT TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. WE MUST MAKE A DECISION NOW TO MOVE AHEAD. IF WE ARE NOT ORGANIZED BY THE END OF FEBRUARY, IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO HOLD A CONFERENCE IN JUNE.

2. IF THE MEETING CANNOT BE ORGANIZED FOR JUNE, WE WILL NOT HAVE ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO FOLLOW-UP ON THE SUCCESS OF THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT AND THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE LAST MAY UNTIL AFTER THE IRISH PRESIDENCY OF THE EU BEGINNING IN JULY. SUCH FOLLOW THROUGH IS SEEN BY ALL COMMUNITIES ON THE ISLAND AS THE CONCRETE EXPRESSION OF THE PRESIDENT'S INTEREST IN CREATING THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH PEACE CAN FLOURISH AND RECONCILIATION FOSTERED. OUR EFFORTS AND THOSE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO SUSTAIN THE MOMENTUM GENERATED BY THE PRESIDENT'S HISTORIC VISIT HAVE UNFORTUNATELY BEEN

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To Alexis
Dong S.

We need to
discuss asap
ms



WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

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LARGELY FRUSTRATED BY THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWNS, THE WEATHER AND NOW CONTINUED UNCERTAINTY OVER THE STATE AND COMMERCE BUDGETS AND SUBSEQUENT INABILITY TO MAKE COMMITMENTS.

3. FORTUNATELY, IN THIS REGARD, OUR CHOICE OF CHICAGO AS A POSSIBLE SITE FOR THE CONFERENCE MAKES INCREASINGLY GOOD SENSE. IF WE ARE TO BE ABLE TO GENERATE A SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE AT THIS LATE DATE WE WILL NEED THE FULL AND ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT OF WHATEVER CITY IS CHOSEN TO HOST THE MEETING. MAYOR DALEY HAS ALREADY INDICATED TO MYSELF AND SECRETARY BROWN THAT HE WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO MAKE THE CONFERENCE A SUCCESS IF CHICAGO IS CHOSEN AS THE SITE. PLUS, THE WORLD TRADE CENTER IS AVAILABLE AS A VENUE AND ITS CHAIRMAN, NIEL HARTIGAN, IS ALSO FULLY COMMITTED TO THE CONFERENCE. CHICAGO AND ITS CATCHMENT AREA ARE HOME TO A NUMBER OF U.S. COMPANIES WHICH ALREADY HAVE MAJOR OPERATIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE BORDER COUNTIES. AS SUCCESS STORIES FOR OTHERS TO EMULATE AND AS POTENTIAL SPONSORS, THEY WILL BE OF INVALUABLE ASSISTANCE TO THE CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS. PLUS, THE MID-WEST OFFERS NUMEROUS OPPORTUNITIES FOR STRATEGIC ALLIANCES IN AGRICULTURE AND HIGH TECH SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT OF INTEREST TO IRISH COMPANIES NORTH AND SOUTH. THIS IS ATTESTED TO BY THE FACT THAT FORBAIRT, THE IRISH BOARD OF TRADE AND IDA, WHICH CHUCK MET WITH DURING HIS VISIT, ALL HAVE OFFICES IN CHICAGO AND ARE EXCITED ABOUT IT AS THE BEST SITE FOR THE CONFERENCE. ON THE PRACTICAL SIDE, THE RECENT COMMENCEMENT OF DIRECT FLIGHTS TO CHICAGO FROM IRELAND WILL MAKE THE CONFERENCE FAR MORE MARKETABLE TO THE IRISH THAN HOLDING IT AT A LESS ACCESSIBLE SITE.

4. NONETHELESS, REGARDLESS OF WHAT SITE IS CHOSEN, WE MUST MOVE NOW TO APPROVE THE CONCEPT OF A TIGHTLY FOCUSED BUSINESS CONFERENCE AIMED AT PROVIDING SPECIFIC INVESTMENT AND TRADE OPPORTUNITIES WHICH WILL STIMULATE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB CREATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE BORDER COUNTIES. WE MUST BE ABLE TO POINT TO REAL PROGRESS ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT WHEN ARGUING THE BENEFITS TO ALL PARTIES OF MAINTAINING AND CEMENTING THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL PROCESS. PLEASE LET ME KNOW WHAT IF ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO HELP MOVE THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS FORWARD. BEST REGARD

S. JEAN.

SMITH

BT

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DEPT. PASS NSC FOR NANCY SODERBERG FROM AMB. SMITH

NSC ALSO FOR MARY ANN PETERS

DEPT. FOR EUR/UBI AND S/IR FOR SENATOR MITCHELL

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E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PREL, PHUM, ETRD, EFIN, UK, EI

SUBJECT: CHICAGO CONFERENCE: DECISION REQUIRED

REF: DUBLIN 448

1. NANCY: I KNOW HOW BUSY YOU ARE, BUT I FELT IT IMPORTANT TO GET BACK TO YOU ON THE "CHICAGO CONFERENCE" AS I UNDERSTAND A DECISION TO PROCEED MAY BE IMMINENT. THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS CONFERENCE IN MAINTAINING THE MOMENTUM ENGENDERED DURING THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT IS, I AM SURE, CLEAR TO ALL. ESPECIALLY WITH THE BREAKDOWN OF THE CEASEFIRE, AN EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CONFERENCE WILL HOPEFULLY HELP TO BOTH RE-ENGENDER CONFIDENCE THAT THE PROCESS -- AND U.S. ENGAGEMENT -- CONTINUES AND INCREASE THE DOWNSIDES FOR THE IRA SHOULD THEY BE CONTEMPLATING FURTHER VIOLENCE. FOR THESE REASONS, WAITING UNTIL SEPTEMBER -- NEARLY A YEAR AND A HALF AFTER THE MAY 1995 CONFERENCE, SEEMS TO ME THE WRONG STEP. CHICAGO, TOO, GIVEN THE GROUNDWORK ALREADY LAID, SEEMS THE BEST LOCATION FOR SUCH A CONFERENCE.

2. WE AND THE IRISH ARE READY AND EAGER TO PLUNGE INTO THE WORK REQUIRED TO MAKE THE CHICAGO CONFERENCE WORK AND WE

*To Alexis
marshall*

*We need to
Decide asap.*

Sossnick + Marilyn D

Suggest Pennsylvania

Let's discuss

Nancy S

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CAN MAKE IT WORK IN JUNE IF WE GET STARTED NOW. HOLDING
THE CONFERENCE IN JUNE -- EARLY OR LATE IN THE MONTH --
DOES NOT TIE THE CONFERENCE TO PRESIDENT ROBINSON'S MID-
JUNE U.S. VISIT. MOREOVER, IF WE MISS THAT DEADLINE,
SEPTEMBER BECOMES PROBLEMATIC FOR THE IRISH BECAUSE OF THE
OVERWHELMING WORKLOAD THE EU PRESIDENCY WILL PLACE ON THE
IRISH GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE LAST HALF OF 1996. SMITH

BT

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