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Letters will be
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WE

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

10-9-98

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~~98 OCT 7 PM 3:59~~

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 5, 1998

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER *SB*
LARRY STEIN *LS*

SUBJECT: Letter to Speaker Gingrich et al. on Ireland ~~98 OCT 5 PM 3:06~~

Purpose

Respond to Speaker Gingrich and six colleagues.

Background

Speaker Gingrich wrote you following his fortnight visit to Ireland in August, commending your involvement in the Good Friday Accord and reporting the outcome of his visit. The main points were that the Congress will work with the new Assembly in Belfast; that he supports the work of the International Fund for Ireland; and that the Congress is looking at new ways to spur job creation, including possibly a new visa program.

In your reply, you note the importance of developing political institutions in Northern Ireland and encourage Congress's initiative; you report on your visit and on the people's commitment to peace; you address the visa/job creation idea noting Ireland's economic success has meant that its people no longer have to go abroad to find work; and you stress that our focus is on investing in change and development in Ireland to give people a direct stake in the outcome.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letters at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab A Congressional Letters
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Ken:

Thank you for your letter following your visit to Ireland in August. I appreciated receiving your five points on developments in the peace process at that juncture, and your affirmation of continued support for our efforts. During my recent trip to Ireland, I saw how well and quickly this process is moving.

What was most moving was my short stay in Omagh, the scene of a brutal assault on innocent people -- Catholics and Protestants, Irish and British, and even foreigners. In my meeting with the survivors and relatives of the victims, I saw neither defeat nor a desire for revenge. I saw a community united in their belief in peace and moving forward to implement the Good Friday Accord.

That mood was also reflected during the extraordinary hour I spent with the members of the newly elected Assembly in Belfast and with the people of Armagh.

I welcome your initiative to establish an inter-parliamentary relationship with Northern Ireland. David Trimble and Gerry Adams broke the ice by meeting twice in September, their first ever face-to-face contact. They and fellow Assembly members will benefit greatly from the American experience in running a pluralistic legislature.

To complement that, USIA is providing funding to Boston College for programs for the new Assembly on how to operate specific aspects of a legislature. Likewise, the involvement of the National Endowment for Democracy organizations is vital to fostering institutional development and a spirit of cooperation in the new Assembly.

The political work is taking place on the foundation so ably laid by the International Fund for Ireland. It is indeed important that we continue our support for the Fund's work, as it has been so successful in fostering economic regeneration, with resulting community revitalization and job creation.

For too long, necessity forced the Irish to go abroad, often permanently, in search of economic opportunity. That has changed. We should be proud that our support for investment, education and political development has contributed to Ireland's remarkable emergence as the economic powerhouse of Europe. Job creation is running at unheard of rates with unemployment falling sharply both in the North and in the Republic, attracting Irish immigrants home. Demand for existing U.S. visa programs has been declining due to the opportunities within Ireland and throughout the European Union where Irish citizens can work without visas.

Thank you again for writing. I will continue to work with the Congress to maintain our support for the programs that have contributed so much to these historic developments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bin" with a small superscript "A" above the "i".

The Honorable Ken Bentsen
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-4325

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Dear John:

Thank you for your letter following your visit to Ireland in August. I appreciated receiving your five points on developments in the peace process at that juncture, and your affirmation of continued support for our efforts. During my recent trip to Ireland, I saw how well and quickly this process is moving.

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The Honorable John D. Dingell
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-2216

THE WHITE HOUSE

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Dear Anna:

Thank you for your letter following your visit to Ireland in August. I appreciated receiving your five points on developments in the peace process at that juncture, and your affirmation of continued support for our efforts. During my recent trip to Ireland, I saw how well and quickly this process is moving.

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Sincerely,

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The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0514

THE WHITE HOUSE

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Dear Representative LaHood:

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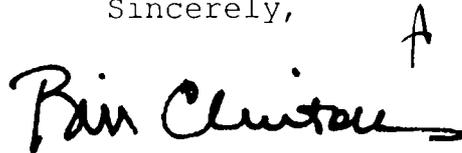
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Thank you again for writing. I will continue to work with the Congress to maintain our support for the programs that have contributed so much to these historic developments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end. Above the signature, there is a small, handwritten capital letter "A".

The Honorable Ray LaHood
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-1318

THE WHITE HOUSE

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Dear Representative Lewis:

Thank you for your letter following your visit to Ireland in August. I appreciated receiving your five points on developments in the peace process at that juncture, and your affirmation of continued support for our efforts. During my recent trip to Ireland, I saw how well and quickly this process is moving.

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The Honorable Jerry Lewis
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0540

THE WHITE HOUSE

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Dear Mr. Speaker:

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The Honorable Newt Gingrich
Speaker of the
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-1006

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Representative Walsh:

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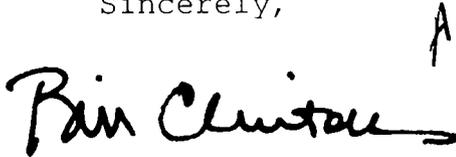
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The Honorable James T. Walsh
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3225

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 13, 1998

President Bill Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Our bipartisan delegation has just concluded seven days of meetings and discussions on the status of the peace process in Northern Ireland. We had the opportunity to meet with Prime Minister Aherm and other senior officials of the Irish Government and with representatives of all the key parties in Northern Ireland, including the British Government. We believe that the combined efforts of the parties to the conflict and the governments supporting the peace process – including our own – have brought us to a pivotal point in the history of this struggle for peace and justice in Northern Ireland. If the momentum of recent events can be sustained, the people of Northern Ireland will chart a course leading to long-term peace and prosperity for all of Ireland. We want to share with you several initial observations to consider as you prepare to embark on your trip to Ireland next month.

First, we would be remiss were we not to recognize your important role in supporting the peace process. By all accounts, the leadership of Senator George Mitchell was crucial in the successful completion of the Good Friday Agreement reached in April. It was an historic accomplishment and we believe the agreement can serve as a solid foundation for the future of Northern Ireland. We found all participants in the process – as well as the people of Northern Ireland – in strong appreciation of the American role.

Second, we believe that it is essential to keep all Northern Ireland's political parties and their leaders actively involved in the political institutions created by the agreement. For the new Northern Ireland Assembly, the Executive Committee, and other institutions to succeed, the parties must be encouraged to give ground, to come together, and to reach accommodations of historic proportions. Bridging the gaps between the parties is of the utmost importance in establishing stability and setting the stage for continued progress. It is also an important element in minimizing support for those on both sides who will not support peace and reconciliation under any reasonable circumstances. As the elected representatives to the Assembly prepare to organize their government, strengthened by the overwhelming vote of the electorate, further confidence building measures will be required. This is not the time for signatories to the agreement to be raising new demands of their partners.

Third, there will be established a bipartisan interparliamentary relationship between the Congress and the Assembly in Northern Ireland. We believe that our encouragement and support can be constructive and complementary to the Administration's diplomacy. We also want to explore what role might be played by the International Republican Institute, the National Democratic Institute, and the other elements of the National Endowment for Democracy.

Fourth, we had an opportunity to see several projects undertaken by the International Fund for Ireland. It is hard to overstate the value of this impressive initiative that has for over ten years had the strong bipartisan support of Congress and three US Presidents. The IFI has created tens of thousands of jobs in areas particularly hard hit by the conflict. It continues to foster hope and promise where before only despair and destitution had been prevalent. The American people can be proud of their contribution to the process of reconciliation and rebuilding in Northern Ireland and the border counties of the Irish Republic. We also had an opportunity to begin construction of Belfast's first "House that Congress Built" for a displaced family under the auspices of Habitat for Humanity. Habitat's impressive work helps the victims of sectarian conflict to help themselves throughout Northern Ireland and operates similar programs in over fifty other countries across the globe.

Fifth, we want to emphasize the importance of encouraging economic growth in Northern Ireland through further US private sector investment. In the absence of a growing economy creating jobs, the process of reconciling differences between the two communities of Northern Ireland will be that much more difficult. We also want to explore other ways of spurring job creation including the establishment of a visa program for education and training.

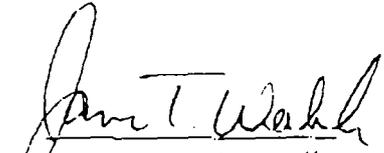
This is a critical moment in the future of Northern Ireland and the United States must continue to do everything we can to support and encourage the continuation of the peace process. If this process falters -- if fears become greater than hopes -- Northern Ireland could easily plunge back into the abyss of violence and despair. We must do all in our power to prevent this.

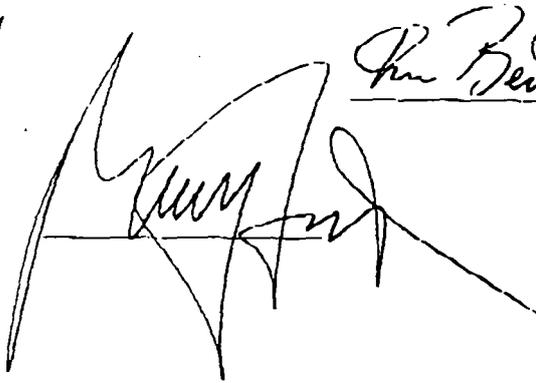
Mr. President, we stand ready to work with you in this effort so important to our national interests and so crucial to the future of the people of Ireland.

Sincerely,

Next Gingrich
Gingrich
Jerome Lewis
Lewis

John Dingell
DINGELL
ESCHER
ESCHER


WALSH





8-18-98
NSCIS:

Please log/staff

Thanks

cBurrell



NSC PACKAGE

10-13-94
(date)

RM:

OK FOR SIGNATURE PER PHIL CAPLAN/SEAN MALONEY.

RETURN ALL LETTER(S) AND ORIGINAL MEMO(S) TO

STAFF SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

DB
(initials)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 9, 1998

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Thank you for your letter following your visit to Ireland in August. I appreciated receiving your five points on developments in the peace process at that juncture, and your affirmation of continued support for our efforts. During my recent trip to Ireland, I saw how well and quickly this process is moving.

What was most moving was my short stay in Omagh, the scene of a brutal assault on innocent people -- Catholics and Protestants, Irish and British, and even foreigners. In my meeting with the survivors and relatives of the victims, I saw neither defeat nor a desire for revenge. I saw a community united in their belief in peace and moving forward to implement the Good Friday Accord.

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Thank you again for writing. I will continue to work with the Congress to maintain our support for the programs that have contributed so much to these historic developments.

Sincerely,

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The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0514

981015

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 9, 1998

Dear Representative LaHood:

Thank you for your letter following your visit to Ireland in August. I appreciated receiving your five points on developments in the peace process at that juncture, and your affirmation of continued support for our efforts. During my recent trip to Ireland, I saw how well and quickly this process is moving.

What was most moving was my short stay in Omagh, the scene of a brutal assault on innocent people -- Catholics and Protestants, Irish and British, and even foreigners. In my meeting with the survivors and relatives of the victims, I saw neither defeat nor a desire for revenge. I saw a community united in their belief in peace and moving forward to implement the Good Friday Accord.

That mood was also reflected during the extraordinary hour I spent with the members of the newly elected Assembly in Belfast and with the people of Armagh.

I welcome your initiative to establish an inter-parliamentary relationship with Northern Ireland. David Trimble and Gerry Adams broke the ice by meeting twice in September, their first ever face-to-face contact. They and fellow Assembly members will benefit greatly from the American experience in running a pluralistic legislature.

To complement that, USIA is providing funding to Boston College for programs for the new Assembly on how to operate specific aspects of a legislature. Likewise, the involvement of the National Endowment for Democracy organizations is vital to fostering institutional development and a spirit of cooperation in the new Assembly.

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Sincerely,

AA


The Honorable Ray LaHood
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-1318

981015

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 9, 1998

Dear Representative Lewis:

Thank you for your letter following your visit to Ireland in August. I appreciated receiving your five points on developments in the peace process at that juncture, and your affirmation of continued support for our efforts. During my recent trip to Ireland, I saw how well and quickly this process is moving.

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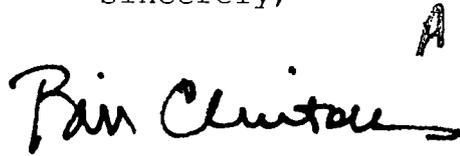
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Thank you again for writing. I will continue to work with the Congress to maintain our support for the programs that have contributed so much to these historic developments.

Sincerely,

A

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0540

981015

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 9, 1998

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Thank you again for writing. I will continue to work with the Congress to maintain our support for the programs that have contributed so much to these historic developments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end. There is a small mark above the signature, possibly a stray pen stroke or a correction.

The Honorable James T. Walsh
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3225

981015

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ID 9805830

REFERRAL

DATE: 14 OCT 98

MEMORANDUM FOR: WH STRIPPING DESK

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: TO: GINGRICH, NEWT

SOURCE: PRESIDENT

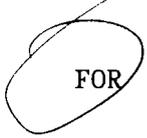
DATE: 09 OCT 98

SUBJ: REPLY RE VISIT TO IRELAND & PEACE PROCESS

REQUIRED ACTION: FOR DISPATCH

DUE DATE: 15 OCT 98

COMMENT:

 FOR


JOHN W. FICKLIN

NSC RECORDS MANAGEMENT OFFICE