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THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: JANUARY 21, 1998

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE PETER T. KING

SUBJECT: EXPRESSES CONCERN REGARDING THE LASTING
PEACE IN IRELAND

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
		ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
JOHN HILLEY		ORG	98/01/06		C 98/01/06
SAMUEL R. "SANDY" BERGER	REFERRAL NOTE:	RSA	98/01/06		
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COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1240 _____

MAIL USER CODES: (A)R_NY (B) (C)

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| *ACTION CODES: | *DISPOSITION | *OUTGOING | * |
| * | * | *CORRESPONDENCE: | * |
| *A-APPROPRIATE ACTION | *A-ANSWERED | *TYPE RESP=INITIALS | * |
| *C-COMMENT/RECOM | *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL | * OF SIGNER | * |
| *D-DRAFT RESPONSE | *C-COMPLETED | * CODE = A | * |
| *F-FURNISH FACT SHEET | *S-SUSPENDED | *COMPLETED = DATE OF | * |
| *I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC* | | * OUTGOING | * |
| *R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY * | | | * |
| *S-FOR-SIGNATURE | * | | * |
| *X-INTERIM REPLY | * | | * |
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LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

PETER T. KING
Member of Congress
Third District, New York

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3203

December 18, 1997

JAN 5 AM 10:46

President William J. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you know, 1997 has seen terrific strides towards a just and lasting peace for Ireland. The historic progress of this past year is due in no small part to your outstanding leadership.

As you also know, the policy of confidence building is a crucial adjunct to the on-going all-party talks at Stormont Castle in Belfast. Efforts by the British government to instill popular support for the peace process are especially critical during this holiday season.

I believe the United States government can lend a hand in confidence building by addressing the cases of Kevin Artt, Terence Kirby and Pol Brennan, three Irishmen who are currently incarcerated in California pending extradition proceedings. These three men were caught up in the Troubles and escaped from prison in the north of Ireland in 1983. Until their arrest in the early 1990s, they led peaceful and productive lives in California. All three men have family in the United States.

The district court originally allowed the three men to remain out on bail for over a year and a half pending their extradition hearing. They obeyed all the conditions of bail. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the grant of bail, noting that they were "convinced that a grant of bail will contribute more to promoting harmony between the supporters of the cause of the Catholics in Northern Ireland and those whose interests are otherwise, than would a denial of bail..."

Following their extradition hearing, the district court ordered the men to be extradited and revoked their bail. The issue of bail on appeal is currently pending before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

The granting of bail on appeal to Kevin Artt, Terence Kirby and Pol Brennan would be viewed as an important confidence-building measure. Both the Irish government and Sinn Fein have submitted requests for bail to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. I believe that if the British government were to make a similar submission bail would be granted.

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President William J. Clinton
December 18, 1997
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I therefore ask that you request that the British government drop its opposition to bail as an appropriate and humane gesture that will have a strongly positive impact on the Irish peace process. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter King". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

PETER T. KING
Member of Congress