

FOIA MARKER

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142758

November 14, 1995

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

Dear President Clinton,

One year ago, the American people joined with you in celebrating the announcement of a cease-fire in Northern Ireland. For the first time in a generation, peace settled on that anguished land.

At the same time, the eyes of the world turned once again to the United States with a prayer that through your leadership, we may help to ensure that the truce would endure long enough to negotiate what so many have longed for in Ireland, a permanent peace.

The issues that have turned a people of two traditions against one another are religious, political and complex, and your efforts to promote dialogue have been applauded not only by those of us who trace our roots to Ireland, but also by men and women of every nationality who cherish the ideals of freedom and democracy.

Now, however, to our great dismay, progress toward the permanent peace we long for is stalled. As a proponent of peace and as the chief executive of a nation that exercises great influence, Mr. President, you are in a position to influence history, not by war or by your command of armies, but peaceably, merely by the authority of your office.

Even as you were eloquent a few days ago in exhorting the people of Israel, in their deepest sorrow, to "stay the righteous course," we now need you to use your influence to induce the disparate sides in Ireland to the negotiating table. There are many issues to be resolved, to be sure, but no single issue is so great that it cannot be resolved by reasonable men and women engaging in an honest dialogue in an earnest quest for peace.

As you prepare to visit Northern Ireland, may you be guided by the spirit that has kept hope alive for so long in the hearts of so many who have struggled for peace in Northern Ireland. It is an ideal intrinsic to the American spirit, that whatever the differences in race, religion or ideology, in a political system that ensures justice, people can live together in harmony.

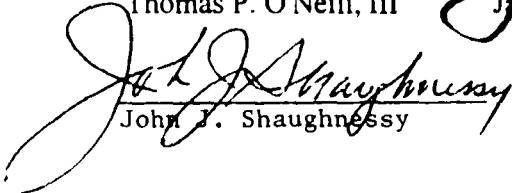
Your visit to Great Britain and Ireland will have served the American ideal, Mr. President, if you can persuade political leaders in England and Ireland to "stay the righteous course," for that will be a step toward justice for those in Northern Ireland and, by extension, for men and women everywhere.

Sincerely,

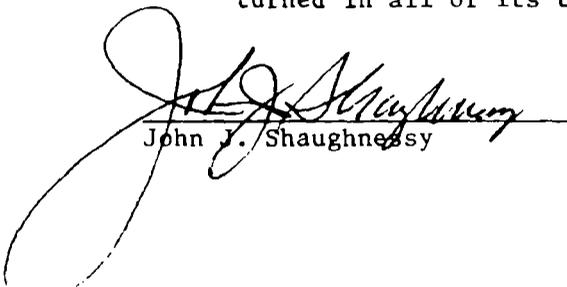

Thomas P. O'Neill, III

Jack Dunfee


William J. Flynn


John J. Shaughnessy

P.S. I think that the IRA has gone a lot more than "half-way" in taking the initiative in starting the peace process and has been able to enforce a remarkable restraint on its bellicose members during the stalled negotiations. I think that it is imperative that high level meetings convene, as soon as possible, between all of the interested parties without the requirement that the IRA must first turn in all of their arms. Once the IRA has surrendered its weapons, it has turned in all of its trump cards.


John J. Shaughnessy