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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 30, 1998

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER
LARRY STEIN
SUBJECT: Letter to Representative
H.R. 4293

SB

PAUL

OK AID

BT

ok - need redline for

Purpose

To express appreciation for Representative Walsh's legislative efforts on behalf of peace in Northern Ireland.

Background

Representative Walsh is the Chairman of the Congressional "Friends of Ireland," and was the original sponsor of the "Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998" (H.R. 4239) that directs the Secretary of State to establish a work opportunities program here in the United States for young people from Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland.

This has been warmly received in Ireland and among the Irish American Community as it allows up to 3,000 persons a year, for three years, to live and work in the United States. We have some discomfort, however, with the fact that the bill creates a new, Ireland-specific working visa category.

Representative Walsh has been a strong supporter of your Irish peace policy and modified the bill so that it focuses more on providing some tangible benefit to Northern Ireland during its transition to a post-conflict society. We thought it would be appropriate to send a note from you following your signing of the bill.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter at Tab A.

Attachment

Tab A Letter to Representative Walsh

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Representative Walsh:

Thank you for your crucial assistance in enacting the "Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998." I hope you will accept the enclosed redline copy of the bill and a signature pen as mementos of this accomplishment.

Since taking office in 1993, one of my top priorities has been reaching and sustaining a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Northern Ireland. I appreciate your personal efforts to give young people from Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland opportunities to experience American work and community values at what will be a crucial period of transition to a post-conflict society.

The peace of 1998 was created for the benefit of future generations; this legislation gives them a chance to begin the process. Many thanks for your dedicated efforts to make it happen.

Sincerely,

A
Bill Clinton

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

NSC PACKAGE

11-4-98
(date)

RM:

OK FOR SIGNATURE PER PHIL CAPLAN/SEAN MALONEY.

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

STAFF SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

bb
(initials)

Okay for Signature by
Dep Stf Secretary _____
Date _____