

# FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.**

---

**Collection/Record Group:** Clinton Presidential Records  
**Subgroup/Office of Origin:** Records Management - SUBJECT FILE  
**Series/Staff Member:**  
**Subseries:**

---

**OA/ID Number:** 21689  
**Scan ID:** 251058SS  
**Document Number:**

---

**Folder Title:**  
CO081

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
S	83	5	6	3

WE



251058ss  
C0081

8590

198 JAN 31 PM 5:16

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

January 31, 1998

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER *SB*  
JOHN HILLEY *JH*

SUBJECT: Letter to Representative Walsh on Northern  
Ireland

Purpose

Respond to a letter from Representative Walsh requesting a meeting for the Friends of Ireland to discuss the peace process.

Background

Representative Walsh, Chairman of the Friends of Ireland, wrote you to follow up your conversation at a Christmas party on his recent visit to Ireland. (He was in Dublin and Edinburgh with Representative Gilman and other members in November.) He offered to have the Friends of Ireland, one of two groupings of members concerned with Ireland, meet with you to discuss the peace process, in particular economic aspects.

We recommend instead that you offer a meeting with Jim Steinberg and Jim Lyons as more useful for this group, which competes and overlaps with the Ad Hoc Committee (total of 145 members between them). In your response, you note that the recent killings in Northern Ireland demonstrate the fragility of the peace process and the need for the United States to be perceived as an even-handed supporter of the peace process.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter at Tab A.

OK AP  
*PTT*  
*April*

Attachments

- Tab A Letter to Representative James Walsh
- Tab B Incoming Correspondence
- Tab C Membership List of the two Irish Congressional groups

cc: Vice President  
Chief of Staff

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Representative Walsh:

Thank you for your letter concerning the situation in Northern Ireland. I came away from my excellent meeting with Bertie Ahern sharing your assessment that the new governments in Dublin and London have made a difference in advancing the peace process. I agree that extending evenly the benefits of economic prosperity in the North is a key factor in anchoring a lasting peace. The recent spate of killings demonstrates the fragility of the process, underscoring the need for Americans to play an impartial role in supporting all participants in the talks.

I understand that you met with Deputy National Security Advisor Jim Steinberg immediately before your trip. I think it would be useful for the Friends of Ireland to meet again with him and Jim Lyons, my new Special Advisor for Economic Initiatives in Ireland, to share your impressions from the trip and assess prospects and implications for a successful conclusion to the talks. Jim Lyons is developing a new set of programs aimed at creating jobs in particularly difficult areas.

Thank you again for your letter. I join you in hoping for a successful conclusion of the talks this year in Belfast.

Sincerely,

*A*  
*Rain Chittau*

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

# NSC PACKAGE

2-2-98

(date)

RM:

OK FOR SIGNATURE PER TODD STERN.

RETURN ALL LETTER(S) AND ORIGINAL MEMO(S) TO STAFF  
SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

cu

(initials)

Okay for Signature by  
Dep Stf Secretary Phil Caplan  
Date 2/2/98

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 2, 1998

Dear Representative Walsh:

Thank you for your letter concerning the situation in Northern Ireland. I came away from my excellent meeting with Bertie Ahern sharing your assessment that the new governments in Dublin and London have made a difference in advancing the peace process. I agree that extending evenly the benefits of economic prosperity in the North is a key factor in anchoring a lasting peace. The recent spate of killings demonstrates the fragility of the process, underscoring the need for Americans to play an impartial role in supporting all participants in the talks.

I understand that you met with Deputy National Security Advisor Jim Steinberg immediately before your trip. I think it would be useful for the Friends of Ireland to meet again with him and Jim Lyons, my new Special Advisor for Economic Initiatives in Ireland, to share your impressions from the trip and assess prospects and implications for a successful conclusion to the talks. Jim Lyons is developing a new set of programs aimed at creating jobs in particularly difficult areas.

Thank you again for your letter. I join you in hoping for a successful conclusion of the talks this year in Belfast.

Sincerely,

*Bill Clinton* <sup>A</sup>

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

980204

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ID 9708590

REFERRAL

DATE: 03 FEB 98

MEMORANDUM FOR: WH STRIPPING DESK

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: TO: WALSH, JAMES T

SOURCE: PRESIDENT

DATE: 02 FEB 98

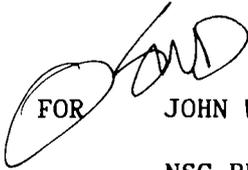
SUBJ: REPLY RE SITUATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND

---

REQUIRED ACTION: FOR DISPATCH

DUE DATE: 04 FEB 98

COMMENT:

  
FOR

JOHN W. FICKLIN

NSC RECORDS MANAGEMENT OFFICE