

# FOIA MARKER

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

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

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**OA/ID Number:** 21689  
**Scan ID:** 301270  
**Document Number:**

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**Folder Title:**  
CO081

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

301270

CO 081

2 letters  
same background

October 25, 1999

The Honorable Mike Cooney  
Secretary of State  
State of Montana  
Helena, Montana 59620-2801

Dear Mike:

Thank you for your letter regarding the situation in Northern Ireland. I appreciate having your insights on this important issue, and I'm sorry I was unable to respond sooner.

I want to assure you that the United States will continue to be a full and active partner in helping to work for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland. The dramatic steps already taken toward peace show that, through determination and reconciliation, seemingly intractable problems can be resolved. The peace process involves the dedication of so many people, and it is wonderful to know that there is support both here at home and around the world for our efforts.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts with me. I hope you are well and send my best.

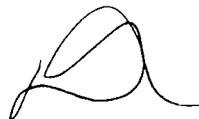
Sincerely,

**BILL CLINTON** 

BC/JHO/SH/DC/ws-ws  
(8.cooney.m)

(Corres. #4421874)

cc: IGA, 106 OEOB



99 102 7

October 25, 1999

The Honorable Joan Barry  
Member of the House of Representatives  
of the State of Missouri  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Dear Joan:

Thank you for your letter regarding the situation in Northern Ireland. Your support means a great deal to me, and I'm sorry I was unable to respond sooner.

I want to assure you that the United States will continue to be a full and active partner in helping to work for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland. The dramatic steps already taken toward peace show that, through determination and reconciliation, seemingly intractable problems can be resolved. The peace process involves the dedication of so many people, and it is wonderful to know that there is support both here at home and around the world for our efforts.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts with me. Best wishes.

Sincerely,

*Handwritten signature*

BC/JHO/SH/DC/ws-ws  
(8.barry.j)

(Corres. #4422007)

✓cc: IGA, 106 OEOB

*Handwritten signature*

99 102 7

October 13, 1999

The Honorable Mike Cooney  
Secretary of State  
State of Montana  
Helena, Montana 59620-2801

Dear Mike:

Thank you for your letter regarding the situation in Northern Ireland. I appreciate having your insights on this important issue, and I'm sorry I was unable to respond sooner.

I want to assure you that the United States will continue to be a full and active partner in helping to work for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland. The dramatic steps already taken toward peace show that, through determination and reconciliation, seemingly intractable problems can be resolved. The peace process involves the dedication of so many people, and it is wonderful to know that there is support both here at home and around the world for our efforts.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts with me. I hope you are well and send my best.

Sincerely,

BC/JHO/SH/ws-ws (Corres. #4421874)  
(8.cooney.m)

cc: IGA, 106 OEOB

OCT 25

Per  
Cooney  
manual  
US

August 19, 1999

Support - is this address  
OK? Couldnt find  
anything for Sec. of  
State, but for other  
officials if it was  
@ Capitol - no street  
address was used ...

Set 10/11

- ① The Honorable Mike Cooney
- ② Secretary of State ~~for the~~
- ③ ~~State of Montana~~
- ~~Post Office Box 202801~~
- ~~State Capitol~~
- ④ Helena, Montana 59620-2801

Dear Mike:

Thank you for your letter regarding the situation in Northern Ireland. *I appreciate having your*

*insights on this important issue, and I'm sorry I was unable to respond sooner.*

~~Despite the recent setback,~~ *I want to* assure you that the United States will continue to be a full and active partner in helping to work for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland. The dramatic steps already taken toward peace show that, through determination and reconciliation, seemingly intractable problems can be resolved. The peace process involves the dedication of so many people, and it is wonderful to know that there is support both here at home and around the world for our efforts.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts with me. ~~You have my best wishes.~~

Sincerely, *I hope you are well and send my*

BC/JHO/ws (Corres. #4421874)  
(8.cooney.m)

cc: IGA, 106 OEOB

DRAFT OF BC LETTER

INITIALS: BC / jho /

DOCUMENT TITLE: /slr/p/cooney.m.jho

DRAFT DATE / LETTER DATE: Jul 19 1999 /

CORRESPONDENCE #: 4421874

CLEAR WITH:

WHCC:

CC: IGA, OEOB 106

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO:

The Honorable Mike Cooney •  
Secretary of State,  
State of Montana •  
Post Office Box 202801 •  
Montana State Capitol •  
Helena, Montana 59620-2801 .

APPROVAL/ENCLOSURES/SPECIAL INSTR:

adapted from typ/gift/4.cowan.p; cleared  
by Richard Norland (NSC) 7/16

*See background for slr/p/barry.jean.jho  
9/1 call to IGA*

---

Dear <sup>Mike</sup> ~~Mr.~~ Secretary:

Thank you for your letter regarding the situation in Northern Ireland.

9 Despite the recent setback, I assure you that the United States will continue to be a full and active partner in helping to work for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland. The dramatic steps already taken toward peace show that, through determination and reconciliation, seemingly intractable problems can be resolved. The peace process involves the dedication of so many people, and it is wonderful to know that there is support both here at home and around the world for our efforts.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts with me. You have my best wishes.

Sincerely,

BC

SEP - 1 1999

DEPARTMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL LETTERS AND MESSAGES  
EDITING TRANSMITTAL SHEET

(Circle)

EVENT DATE WALK THROUGH ATTACHMENT OTHER

(Circle)

BC SIG

TRACK

MI MAIL

Notes:

Date of 1<sup>st</sup> edit: 9/1 Editor's initials: DDA

Incoming: a) Issue: Peace Process in Ireland

b) Answered:  yes no

Draft: a) Supporting Documents

Quorum background re: relationship/previous correspondence Not provided

Quorum background re: topic of incoming

typ/gift/A. Cowan

Other background material (describe)

7-7-99 Job training for Ireland statement (irrelevant)

b) Name/Title/Address checked

6-29 JFK airport interview  
(goes to recent setback  
language)

c) Dates/Figures/Facts confirmed

Incoming

NIA

d) Grammar/Spelling

✓

e) Copies to appropriate WH personnel

IGA,

f) WH/Agency clearance:  yes no current:  yes no

R. Norland (NSC) 7/16

Flags:

See 9/1 e-mail to J.O. re: salutation. Pls. confirm in 2nd edit.

Date of 2<sup>nd</sup> edit: \_\_\_\_\_ Editor's initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Confirm first edits corrected: yes no

Review incoming/background: yes no

Flags:

Debi Alexander, Director  
X 66018



Debra D. Alexander  
09/01/99 10:24:56 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Jeffrey H. Oakman/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Letter to Mike Cooney, Secy of State, Montana re: Ireland Peace Process

Please check salutation with IGA: Dear Mr. Secretary or Dear Mike. Thanks.

*Flag for 2nd edit.*

I.G.A. CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING SHEET

---

Date received in PLM: 4-20

Assigned to:

Jeffrey Oakman

Chris Scully

Tracy Sisser

Woyneab Wondwossen

RE: Irish Peace Treaty

---

Scheduling Request: Forward to Megan Williams, Room 106

Personnel Recommendation: Forward to Ruth Eaglin, Room 158

Request for a Presidential Message: Forward to Carmen Fowler, Room 91

The Irish World Newspaper  
Irish World House  
934 North Circular Road  
London NW2 7RJ  
UNITED KINGDOM

Dear Mr. Cowan:

I was deeply honored to receive the Irish World 1998 Northern Ireland Peacemaker of the Year award, and I remain committed to bringing about a lasting peace in the region. The dramatic steps already taken toward peace show that, through determination and reconciliation, seemingly intractable problems can be resolved. The peace process involves the dedication of so many people, and it is wonderful to know that there is support around the world for our efforts.

Press Exit when done

(Use Cursor Keys for more text)



Debra D. Alexander  
09/01/99 10:34:14 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Jeffrey H. Oakman/WHO/EOP@EOP  
cc: Shannon M. Hinderliter/WHO/EOP@EOP  
Subject: Mike Cooney and Joan Barry letters on Ireland's peace process

Did you check quorum for previous correspondence? Please advise. If they have previous correspondence, please provide appropriate copies. Thanks. Debi



**Todd A. Bledsoe**  
09/01/99 12:01:21 PM



Record Type: Record

To: Jeffrey H. Oakman/WHO/EOP@EOP  
cc:  
bcc:  
Subject: Re: Letter to Mike Cooney, Secy of State, Montana re: Ireland Peace Process

Mike, the President knows him.  
Jeffrey H. Oakman



**Jeffrey H. Oakman**  
09/01/99 12:00:18 PM



Record Type: Record

To: Todd A. Bledsoe/WHO/EOP@EOP  
cc:  
Subject: Letter to Mike Cooney, Secy of State, Montana re: Ireland Peace Process

We have a letter going out to Mike Cooney, the Montana Sec of State. Should we address him as Mike or Mr. Secretary?

Thanks,  
Jeffrey Oakman  
PLM, x65517

----- Forwarded by Jeffrey H. Oakman/WHO/EOP on 09/01/99 11:57 AM -----



**Debra D. Alexander**  
09/01/99 10:24:56 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Jeffrey H. Oakman/WHO/EOP@EOP  
cc:  
Subject: Letter to Mike Cooney, Secy of State, Montana re: Ireland Peace Process

Please check salutation with IGA: Dear Mr. Secretary or Dear Mike. Thanks.

Constituent Summary View

Record: 874531.A	Revised: 19 Jul 99	Entered: 07 Jun 93
The Honorable Mike Cooney	Contact Aide Type Code	Status
Dear Mr. Secretary	173905 inc BC.SC MT EVENT PRIORITY	OPEN
	512688 lea GIFT	
No home address		
Secretary of State		
State of Montana		
Post Office Box 202801	History Aide DateIn/Out	Letter/Subject
Montana State Capitol	2774146 lij 11 Mar 96	/slr/p/cooney.m.lij
Helena, MT 59620 2801		Pending
	4421874 jho 14 Jul 99	/slr/p/cooney.m.jho
No additional information		Pending
	[4379153]swl 15 Jun 99	/ma/robo/db/db-013
No affiliations		15 Jun 99
	4317611 swl 29 Apr 99	IEWS.N
		29 Apr 99
		/ma/robo/db/db-013d
		IEWS.N V.GEN.NO.SU
	3503737	3503737
Group:		



**Jeffrey H. Oakman**

09/01/99 11:57:36 AM



Record Type: Record

To: Todd A. Bledsoe/WHO/EOP

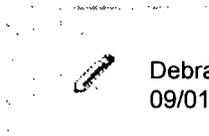
cc:

Subject: Letter to Mike Cooney, Secy of State, Montana re: Ireland Peace Process

We have a letter going out to Mike Cooney, the Montana Sec of State. Should we address him as Mike or Mr. Secretary?

Thanks,  
Jeffrey Oakman  
PLM, x65517

----- Forwarded by Jeffrey H. Oakman/WHO/EOP on 09/01/99 11:57 AM -----



Debra D. Alexander  
09/01/99 10:24:56 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Jeffrey H. Oakman/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Letter to Mike Cooney, Secy of State, Montana re: Ireland Peace Process

Please check salutation with IGA: Dear Mr. Secretary or Dear Mike. Thanks.

October 13, 1999

The Honorable Joan Barry  
Member of the House of Representatives  
of the State of Missouri  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Dear Joan:

Thank you for your letter regarding the situation in Northern Ireland. Your support means a great deal to me, and I'm sorry I was unable to respond sooner.

I want to assure you that the United States will continue to be a full and active partner in helping to work for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland. The dramatic steps already taken toward peace show that, through determination and reconciliation, seemingly intractable problems can be resolved. The peace process involves the dedication of so many people, and it is wonderful to know that there is support both here at home and around the world for our efforts.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts with me.  
Best wishes.

Sincerely,

BC/JHO/SH/ws-ws (Corres. #4422007)  
(8.barry.j)

cc: IGA, 106 OEOB

2nd  
letter  
background



OCT 25 1999

August 19, 1999

GA 10/11

The Honorable Joan Barry  
Member of the House of Representatives  
of the State of ~~Montana~~ *Missouri*  
~~State Capitol~~  
~~Room 304B~~  
~~201 West Capitol Avenue~~  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Dear Joan:

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Thank you for sharing your thoughts with me. ~~You have my~~ <sup>best</sup> wishes.

Sincerely,

BC/JHO/ws (Corres. #4422007)  
(8.barry.j)

cc: IGA, 106 OEOB

DRAFT OF BC LETTER

INITIALS: BC / jho /

DOCUMENT TITLE: /slr/p/barry.joan.jho

DRAFT DATE / LETTER DATE: Jul 19 1999 /

CORRESPONDENCE #: 4422007

CLEAR WITH:

WHCC:

CC: IGA, OEOB 106

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO:

Ms. Joan Barry .  
Missouri State Representative .  
State Capitol .  
Room 304B .  
201 West Capitol Avenue .  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101 .

APPROVAL/ENCLOSURES/SPECIAL INSTR:

adapted from typ/gift/4.cowan.p; cleared  
by Richard Norland (NSC) 7/16

9/1 DDA

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SEP - 1 1999

DEPARTMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL LETTERS AND MESSAGES  
EDITING TRANSMITTAL SHEET

(Circle)

EVENT DATE WALK THROUGH ATTACHMENT OTHER

(Circle)

BC SIG

TRACK

MI MAIL

Notes:

Date of 1<sup>st</sup> edit: 9/1 Editor's initials: DDA

Incoming: a) Issue: Peace process in Ireland

b) Answered:  yes no

Draft: a) Supporting Documents

Quorum background re: relationship/previous correspondence Not provided

Quorum background re: topic of incoming

Other background material (describe)  
+yp/gift/4. cowan

b) Name/Title/Address checked  
7-7-99 Job training for Ireland statement;

c) Dates/Figures/Facts confirmed  
Incoming & Bus. card 6-28 JFK Airport interview  
N/A 7-15 statement

d) Grammar/Spelling

e) Copies to appropriate WH personnel IGA

f) WH/Agency clearance:  yes no current:  yes no

Richard Norland / NSC / 7/16/99

Flags: "Despite the recent setback" per NSC ....

Copy of typ/gift/4. cowan not attached. Included 9/1.

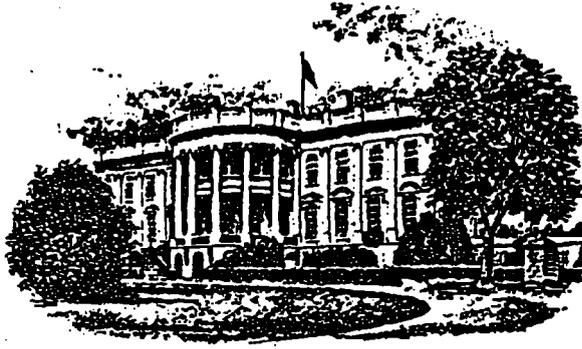
Date of 2<sup>nd</sup> edit: \_\_\_\_\_ Editor's initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Confirm first edits corrected: yes no

Review incoming/background: yes no

Flags:

Debi Alexander, Director  
X 66018



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

FACSIMILE FROM: Jeffrey Oakman  
OFFICE OF PRESIDENTIAL LETTERS AND MESSAGES  
OLD EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 97

VOICE: (202)456-5517

FAX: (202) 456-5426

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER): 4

DATE: 7/14

TO: John Ficklin

VOICE: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: 69220

INCOMING LETTER(S) FROM: Joan Barry & Mike Cooney

RE: Ireland Peace Process

FOR YOUR REVIEW

PER MY E-MAIL OR VOICE-MAIL MESSAGE TO YOU

PER YOUR REQUEST

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

I need clearance/changes on this draft letter which will go out as a response to the 2 attached incoming letters. Thanks very much,

Jeffrey Oakman

I.G.A. CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING SHEET

Rec'd 4/13  
- ww

Date received in PLM: 3/31

Assigned to:

- Kyle Baker
- Diane Ikemiyashiro
- Matt Pitcher
- Chris Scully
- Tracy Sisser
- Woyneab Wondwossen

RE: Ireland

---

---

- Scheduling Request: Forward to Megan Williams, Room 106
- Personnel Recommendation: Forward to Ruth Eaglin, Room 158
- Request for a Presidential Message: Forward to Carmen Fowler, Room 91

The Irish World Newspaper  
Irish World House  
934 North Circular Road  
London NW2 7RJ  
UNITED KINGDOM

Dear Mr. Cowan:

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Press Exit when done

(Use Cursor Keys for more text)

*draft  
modeled  
after this  
language.  
9/1 ODA*

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

Date: 7-15-99

To: ~~SAFIRE~~ *Richard Norlund*  
NSC Staff Officer

Please review the attached Presidential message/letter and indicate recommendation below:

Concur as is: \_\_\_\_\_

Concur with changes: ✓ *Richard Norlund @EVR*

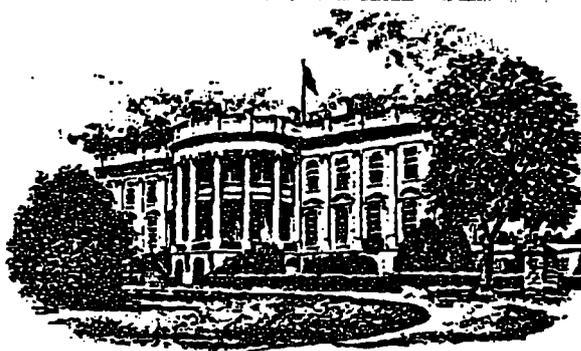
Alternate text attached: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
for Executive Secretary

RETURN FORM AND ATTACHMENTS TO RECORDS  
MANAGEMENT OFFICE ROOM 379 OEGB AS SOON AS  
POSSIBLE.

THANK YOU.  
—

*#5139 D20*



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

FACSIMILE FROM: Jeffrey Oakman  
OFFICE OF PRESIDENTIAL LETTERS AND MESSAGES  
OLD EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 97

VOICE: (202)456-5517 FAX: (202) 456-5426

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER): 4

DATE: 7/14

TO: John Ficklin

VOICE: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: 69220

INCOMING LETTER(S) FROM: Joan Barry & Mike Cooney  
RE: Ireland Peace Process

FOR YOUR REVIEW

PER MY E-MAIL OR VOICE-MAIL MESSAGE TO YOU

PER YOUR REQUEST

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

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*Jeffrey Oakman*

**DRAFT OF BC LETTER**

INITIALS: BC / jho /

DOCUMENT TITLE: /slr/p/barry.joan.jho

DRAFT DATE / LETTER DATE: Jul 14 1999 /

CORRESPONDENCE #: 4422007

CLEAR WITH:

WHCC:

CC: IGA, OEOB 106

## CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO:

Ms. Joan Barry  
Missouri State Representative  
State Capitol  
Room 304B  
201 West Capitol Avenue  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

## APPROVAL/ENCLOSURES/SPECIAL INSTR:

adapted from typ/gift/4.cowan.p

---

Dear Joan:

Thank you for your letter regarding the situation in Northern Ireland.

*Despite the recent setback,*

I assure you that the United States will continue to be a full and active partner in helping to work for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland. The dramatic steps already taken toward peace show that, through determination and reconciliation, seemingly intractable problems can be resolved. The peace process involves the dedication of so many people, and it is wonderful to know that there is support both here at home and around the world for our efforts.

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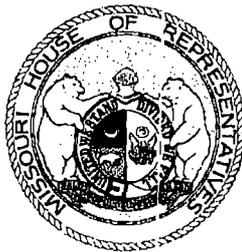
Sincerely,

BC

*Real Sh... ..*

**CAPITOL OFFICE**  
STATE CAPITOL • ROOM 304B  
201 WEST CAPITOL AVENUE  
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101  
573 • 751-9804  
FAX 573 • 526-4767  
Email: jbarry01@services.state.mo.us

**DISTRICT ADDRESS**  
5050 LAMPGLOW COURT  
ST. LOUIS, MO 63129  
314 • 487-1558



**COMMITTEES**  
PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION  
AND LICENSING, Vice-Chair  
MISCELLANEOUS BILLS  
AND RESOLUTIONS, Vice-Chair  
PUBLIC HEALTH, Vice-Chair  
APPROPRIATIONS—  
SOCIAL SERVICES AND CORRECTIONS  
ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY  
CIVIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW  
JOINT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE  
POLICY AND PLANNING

**JOAN BARRY**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • DISTRICT 100

Thursday, March 25, 1999

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Clinton:

Your past help and your involvement in Northern Ireland has brought the parties to the conflict to the brink of a lasting settlement. Never before have we had this great an opportunity to bring Peace with Justice to that troubled land.

I know you will continue to remain involved and offer the good offices of the United States in any way that might be of assistance.

All those concerned with the situation in Northern Ireland appreciate what you have done and I personally want to offer my congratulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan Barry".

Joan Barry  
Missouri State Representative  
District 100

MAR 29 1999

*real stone*

301270



**Mike Cooney**  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
STATE OF MONTANA

April 8, 1999

The President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to urge you to remain deeply involved in the Irish peace process. Recent developments seem to indicate that the situation in Northern Ireland is deteriorating, and I fear that without the firm influence of the United States, the gains realized in the Good Friday Agreement will unravel rapidly.

As you know, the human rights lawyer Rosemary Nelson was murdered last month in a car bomb attack outside her home. An Irish peace activist, Breandan MacCionnaith, recently held a number of speaking engagements throughout Montana. Mr. MacCionnaith canceled part of his U.S. visit to attend Rosemary Nelson's wake. It is alleged that several days later, Mr. MacCionnaith was seriously beaten by members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC).

Sean McManus, an Alderman from Sligo, Ireland also visited me last month to express his concerns about how the situation has worsened in recent months.

Mr. President, I hope that you will continue to bring firm U.S. leadership to bear on the peace process. In particular, I hope that the United States will encourage complete disarmament by all parties, including the RUC. The continued presence of foreign armed personnel in Northern Ireland clearly exacerbates regional instability. RUC disarmament will provide a strong incentive for all groups to disarm, thereby halting the ongoing violence and bloodshed.

Thank you for your continued focus on the situation in Ireland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Cooney".  
Mike Cooney

APR 13 1999

DRAFT OF BC LETTER

INITIALS: BC / jho /

DOCUMENT TITLE: /slr/p/barry.joan.jho

DRAFT DATE / LETTER DATE: Jul 14 1999 /

CORRESPONDENCE #: 4422007

CLEAR WITH:

WHCC:

CC: IGA, OEOB 106

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO:

Ms. Joan Barry  
Missouri State Representative  
State Capitol  
Room 304B  
201 West Capitol Avenue  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

APPROVAL/ENCLOSURES/SPECIAL INSTR:

adapted from typ/gift/4.cowan.p

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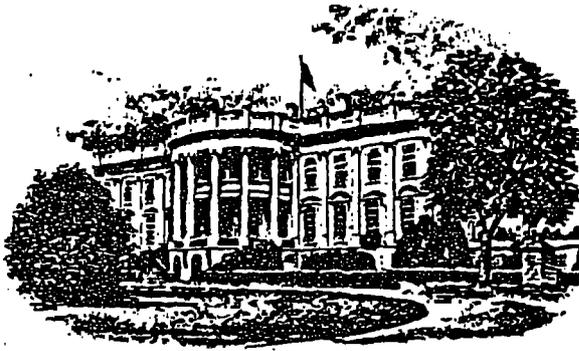
Sincerely,

BC

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\* TX REPORT \*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

TRANSMISSION OK

TX/RX NO	2126	
CONNECTION TEL		69220
CONNECTION ID	NSC RECORDS MGT	
ST. TIME	07/14 11:44	
USAGE T	02'19	
PGS. SENT	4	
RESULT	OK	



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

FACSIMILE FROM: Jeffrey Oakman  
OFFICE OF PRESIDENTIAL LETTERS AND MESSAGES  
OLD EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 97

VOICE: (202)456-5517      FAX: (202) 456-5426

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER): 4

DATE: 7/14

TO: John Ficklin

VOICE: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: 69220

[  ] INCOMING LETTER(S) FROM: Joan Barry & Mike Cooney  
RE: Ireland Peace Process



Jason H. Schechter  
07/15/99 02:02:13 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message  
cc:  
Subject: Statement by the President: Ireland

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

---

For Immediate Release

July 15, 1999

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I share the regret that the people of Ireland and Northern Ireland feel at the setback in the peace process. They have voted overwhelmingly for peace. They want a permanent end to violence and to the potential for violence. The cry for a peaceful, inclusive, democratic society in Northern Ireland has never been stronger.

Real progress has been made on all sides toward fulfilling the solemn commitments spelled out in the Good Friday Agreement. It is incumbent on all parties to carry out their obligations under that accord. I am convinced that it is possible to achieve full implementation of this historic Agreement in all its aspects by next spring, as contemplated by its terms.

The British and Irish governments intend to conduct over the next few weeks an interim review of the implementation of the Agreement aimed at overcoming the hurdles in the peace process. For the future of all the people of Northern Ireland who want an enduring peace and a normal life, I call upon all those involved to find the way to get the peace process back on track. I am ready to assist Prime Minister Blair, Prime Minister Ahern and the parties in any way I can to achieve this goal.

30-30-30

Message Sent To: \_\_\_\_\_

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary  
(Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, South Dakota)

For Immediate Release

July 7, 1999

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

Job Training Program for Ireland

The President welcomed today's announcement in Northern Ireland of a U.S. training program for young adult residents of Northern Ireland and the counties of Donegal, Cavan, Monaghan, Louth, Longford and Leitrim in Ireland. The program was developed in connection with the "Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998," which the President signed last October. It also has the active involvement of the governments of Ireland and the United Kingdom.

The program will make an important and timely contribution to spreading the benefits of globalization and economic prosperity to disadvantaged areas in Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic. Coming in the context of Northern Ireland's historic peace effort, the new program will shortly provide young unemployed persons aged 18-35 an opportunity to come to the United States to develop and enhance their job skills and improve their prospects for employment in their home countries. We anticipate that a wide range of job training opportunities, and associated cultural programs, will be available across the United States, especially in those areas and economic sectors with existing trade and investment links to Ireland and Northern Ireland. Upon returning home, the participants will receive assistance in finding jobs in their fields.

*No language  
or ideas  
taken from  
this.*

The President has expressed his appreciation to Congressman James T. Walsh for his leadership in helping to establish this program.

# # #

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 28, 1999

INTERVIEW OF THE PRESIDENT  
BY THE BBC

JFK Airport  
New York, New York

Q Mr. President, it's two days to go until the deadline in Northern Ireland. Obviously a crucial week. The politicians still at loggerheads, apparently. What is it that you want them to do now in this make-or-break time?

THE PRESIDENT: I want them to remember how strongly the people voted for peace and for the Good Friday Accords, and to find an honorable resolution of the admittedly thorny problems. Because whatever the difficulties of going forward, they are very small compared to the difficulties of letting the peace process fall apart.

*See back  
reference*

Q When you say there are "thorny problems," and the difficulty -- and especially the problem of decommissioning, would you be urging the Sinn Fein to do what Ulster Unionists are urging Sinn Fein to do, namely, to sign up to a timetable for disarmament and give a categorical assurance that the IRA will disarm completely by May 2000?

THE PRESIDENT: I think that all the parties should fully comply with the terms of the Good Friday Accords, and that's what I would say. I think that they all have to find a way -- we know what the problems, the legitimate problems the Sinn Fein have with the decommissioning issue. But it's an important part of the Good Friday Accords, so there has to be a resolution of it that enables the leadership of the Unionists, Mr. Trimble and the others who have fought for peace, to survive, to sustain their position, and to go forward and get everybody on their side to honor the Good Friday Accords, too.

They can find a way to do this, if they decide that the price of failure is far higher than the price of compromise. And I think there's a good chance they'll do it, even if it's eleventh hour, I do.

Q Well, what about the Ulster Unionists? Their position has been that there has to be guns handed over, actual hardware, before Sinn Fein can go into government. Do you think they should be considering moving ahead on the basis of pledges rather than actually looking for the armaments?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I believe that on that score, Mr. Trimble is satisfied in these talks with whatever commitment is made, and I think they should give it a chance to work.

One thing I would say to the Unionists is that they can always walk away from this if the commitments aren't made at a later date. And they should keep in mind -- they can bring this down at any time by simply walking out if the commitments aren't kept. So I think that if Mr. Trimble can be satisfied, and they can work it through, then I would hope the Unionists would support him and give him a chance -- give this thing a chance to work.

Q Now, this political deadline is also coinciding with the annual deadline -- in Northern Ireland of the Drumcree March -- an announcement on the Drumcree March is imminent. There are extremely strong indications that the Orangemen won't be allowed to go down the Catholic section of the Garvaghy Road. How concerned are you about what the impact of a refusal to let the Orangemen go down Garvaghy Road could be, both on the street and on the political process?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, as an outsider, you know, to me this looks like the most difficult of decisions because it is -- there's enormous emotional content on both sides. It's not just a matter of a lot of people walking on a certain road. And I think however it is resolved this year, the most important thing is that the parties themselves try to find a larger, omnibus resolution for this that reflects the spirit of the Good Friday Accords.

Keep in mind, I mean, the spirit of the Good Friday Accords is that both sides should have respect for and get respect from one another, and that no one should have to give up his or her heritage or traditions, but they should be pursued with some sensitivity to how others feel as well.

So I think that they're in a terrible bind now because the Drumcree deadline is coming up against the negotiation deadline. And so, however it's resolved, I think that what the leaders should be thinking about is, what is the long-run resolution of this? How can we show one another the necessary respect and sensitivity that will put this marching issue in the context of the commitment of the Good Friday Accords, which is to push toward reconciliation and equality within the principle of consent?

Q At the time of the Good Friday agreement you waited up through the night in Washington, inside the White House, seeing how the negotiations were working out. You went on the phone personally and spoke to the main parties and tried to coax them forward. This week, with a new deadline, are you willing to do the same, to intervene personally?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, absolutely. I'll do whatever I can to help. You know, this means a lot to me. It means a lot to the American people. We have tens of millions of Irish Catholics and Irish Protestants who are deeply invested emotionally, and many of them financially, in Northern Ireland, and would like to be more involved.

And I also believe, as I have said many times, that if this can be resolved -- if we can get over this next hurdle and go forward -- I think it will give courage to the advocates of peace in the face of religious and ethnic problems in other parts of the world. You know, we're just getting off the ground with our efforts in Kosovo. There are many difficulties there, and the accumulated grievances there, from mass killing and mass uprooting, are deeper, if you will, just in terms of human loss than all the things that have happened in Ireland.

But people have this sense that the divisions in Ireland go back such a long time, that if they can be overcome, I think it would give great heart to the proponents of peace in the Balkans and Africa, and the Middle East, because -- the new Prime Minister is about to announce a government there, we have a chance again to make progress and peace in the Middle East.

And I think that from my point of view, as someone who's interested in not only the country of my roots, but the rest of the world, I think that it's hard to overstate, it's hard to overstate the impact a positive or a negative outcome could have on such actions in the rest of the world.

Q Finally, Mr. President, there's only so much that you, or, indeed, the British and Irish Prime Ministers can do to coax people along. Is this the time when Northern Ireland's political leaders have to stand on their own two feet?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think they can know that we can coax them and we can stand with them and we can support them, and we can bring the benefits in all kinds of ways after this is resolved, but in the end, the leaders have to decide.

The people have voted for peace. But that's a general principle; the particulars are always difficult. And again, I would say, I think the important thing is to keep this going. Somebody -- if there is a necessary commitment given by all sides, and then, later, any of those commitments are not kept, this thing can always be brought down because the commitments were not kept. But I think it would be terrible to let it come apart now, before we get to see and feel how it really works.

Q Mr. President, thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

END



Debra D. Alexander  
09/01/99 10:34:14 AM

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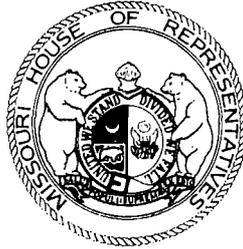
To: Jeffrey H. Oakman/WHO/EOP@EOP  
cc: Shannon M. Hinderliter/WHO/EOP@EOP  
Subject: Mike Cooney and Joan Barry letters on Ireland's peace process

Did you check quorum for previous correspondence? Please advise. If they have previous correspondence, please provide appropriate copies. Thanks. Debi

*Real Shanna*

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POLICY AND PLANNING

**JOAN BARRY**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • DISTRICT 100

Thursday, March 25, 1999

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Clinton:

Your past help and your involvement in Northern Ireland has brought the parties to the conflict to the brink of a lasting settlement. Never before have we had this great an opportunity to bring Peace with Justice to that troubled land.

I know you will continue to remain involved and offer the good offices of the United States in any way that might be of assistance.

All those concerned with the situation in Northern Ireland appreciate what you have done and I personally want to offer my congratulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan Barry".

Joan Barry  
Missouri State Representative  
District 100

*next to...*

301270



**Mike Cooney**  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
STATE OF MONTANA

April 8, 1999

The President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to urge you to remain deeply involved in the Irish peace process. Recent developments seem to indicate that the situation in Northern Ireland is deteriorating, and I fear that without the firm influence of the United States, the gains realized in the Good Friday Agreement will unravel rapidly.

As you know, the human rights lawyer Rosemary Nelson was murdered last month in a car bomb attack outside her home. An Irish peace activist, Brendan MacCionnaith, recently held a number of speaking engagements throughout Montana. Mr. MacCionnaith canceled part of his U.S. visit to attend Rosemary Nelson's wake. It is alleged that several days later, Mr. MacCionnaith was seriously beaten by members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC).

Sean McManus, an Alderman from Sligo, Ireland also visited me last month to express his concerns about how the situation has worsened in recent months.

Mr. President, I hope that you will continue to bring firm U.S. leadership to bear on the peace process. In particular, I hope that the United States will encourage complete disarmament by all parties, including the RUC. The continued presence of foreign armed personnel in Northern Ireland clearly exacerbates regional instability. RUC disarmament will provide a strong incentive for all groups to disarm, thereby halting the ongoing violence and bloodshed.

Thank you for your continued focus on the situation in Ireland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Cooney".  
Mike Cooney

APR 13 1999

*read stand*

301270



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STATE OF MONTANA

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APR 13 1999