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Robert C. Linnon, Ph.D
National President



March 16, 2000

The Honorable William J. Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500
Via Fax: 202-456-2461

Dear Mr. President:

Ireland has experienced many hard times, these past few weeks not excluded.

Because we have been working for peace and justice through nonviolent means for decades we understand the many facets involved. Over the last quarter of a century we have talked with representatives of all the major parties in Northern Ireland. We met with many legislators on Capitol Hill and even escorted some of them to Northern Ireland on fact finding trips. During your tenure in office we have met with many of your appointees including Tony Lake, Jim Steinberg, Nancy Soderberg, Larry Butler, Cathy Stephens, Paul Von Son, Doug Archard, Dick Norland and others. We have applauded your courage, involvement and assistance to Ireland over the years, and continue to do so. You've spent countless hours, sometimes in the wee hours of the morning, on Ireland's behalf. You undoubtedly will spend many more hours this coming week with leaders from Ireland, north and south.

Toward that end I am writing now to ask you for one more hour, one hour with some of the leaders of Irish American organizations. We feel deeply for all the people of Ireland and truly want to help resolve the current impasse. Yet we have never been able to share our views directly with you, Mr. President. If possible we would like to do just that. Sit with you for one hour to discuss our views and ideas. As you know, one simple idea can change the course of history. Perhaps if we pool our years of experience in dealing with all sides in the conflict we can come up with that one key idea.

Thank you for consideration of our letter and our request.

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