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THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: JANUARY 22, 1998

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE JAMES T. WALSH

SUBJECT: THANKS PRESIDENT REGARDING HIS MEETING WITH
PRIME MINISTER BERTIE AHERN AND DISCUSSING
THE PEACE IN IRELAND

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION		
		ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C D	COMPLETED YY/MM/DD
JOHN HILLEY		ORG	97/12/19		C	97/12/19
SAMUEL R.	REFERRAL NOTE: "SANDY" BERGER	RSA	97/12/19			
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COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:F INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1240 _____
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*ACTION CODES:          *DISPOSITION          *OUTGOING          *
*                      *                      *CORRESPONDENCE:  *
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION  *A-ANSWERED          *TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM       *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL *          OF SIGNER   *
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*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET  *S-SUSPENDED         *COMPLETED = DATE OF *
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*                      *          OUTGOING  *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *                      *                      *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE       *                      *                      *
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JAMES T. WALSH
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
25TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP
CHAIRMAN
FRIENDS OF IRELAND

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3225

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December 17, 1997

Hon. William J. Clinton
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C.

DEC 18 PM2:04

Dear Mr. President,

I was very pleased to read that your meeting this week with Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern went well. I agree with the Prime Minister that your direct involvement greatly increases the chances for a peace accord.

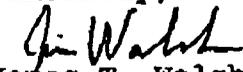
During our brief conversation at the White House Christmas Party, I mentioned that our recent Inter-parliamentary Exchange delegation to Ireland met with principals in the peace talks, political party leaders and others -- employers, small business people and economic development planners -- whose optimism is guarded and hopes are high. One facet of a lasting peace must be job-production and economic prosperity in the North, just as it now exists in the Republic.

Since your historic visit to Belfast and Dublin in 1995, when it was my honor to lead the bipartisan Congressional Delegation which accompanied you and the First Lady, the new governments in Dublin and London have shown promising flexibility. But just as there is reason for encouragement, there is cause for concern that this ceasefire may end as the last one did because bold steps were not taken.

In light of your commitment, I would value the opportunity to give you a briefing from the Friends of Ireland perspective. This could include information about our visit to economic development sites sponsored in part by the International Fund for Ireland.

In any event, as Chairman of the Friends of Ireland and on behalf of all Irish-Americans who pray for peace with justice, thank you for helping to focus the world's attention on Ireland.

Sincerely,


James T. Walsh
Member of Congress
Chairman, Friends of Ireland

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FAX COVER SHEET

Rep. James T. Walsh

DATE: December 17, 1997

MESSAGE TO: President William J. Clinton

FAX #: 202/456-6221

OF PAGES: 2 (two)
(including cover)

MESSAGE FROM: Rep. James T. Walsh, Chairman
Friends of Ireland

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