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September 24, 1996

Mr. John J. Sweeney
President
American Federal of Labor and Congress
of Industrial Organizations
815 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear John:

Thank you for sharing your thoughts.

I welcomed the February 28th announcement by British Prime Minister Major and Irish Prime Minister Bruton concerning negotiations for a just and lasting settlement in Northern Ireland. Those negotiations will lead to inclusive talks regarding the future of Northern Ireland once the cease-fire has been restored. I am convinced that this path is supported by the majority of the people of Northern Ireland, who have resoundingly rejected violence and have, instead, embraced peace. It is my hope that those who have resorted to violence will heed the clear voice of the people and cease their campaign of terror.

Prime Minister Bruton, Prime Minister Major, and Northern Ireland political leaders are continuing their determined work to end the violence and to pursue a negotiated settlement. I applaud their persistent efforts to overcome age-old disagreements, and I am pleased that the United States has been able to assist this process of reconciliation. My Administration joins the governments of Ireland and the United Kingdom in the hope and expectation that all of the parties can finally create the lasting peace that the people of Northern Ireland so deserve.

I appreciate your interest in this important issue.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON 

BC/efr (Corres. #3163827)
P-527 (9.sweeney.jj)

cc: Harold Ickes, 1stFl/WW



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P-527 for AP
cc: Jones

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American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations



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August 16, 1996

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
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3163827

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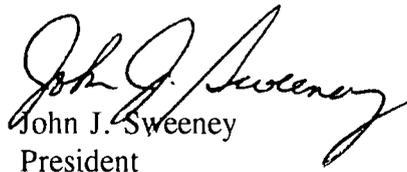
Dear Mr. President:

Last month's violence in Northern Ireland dealt yet another grave blow to the flickering peace process. More than anything else, this latest setback reflects a growing frustration with the stalled peace negotiations.

Nevertheless, there is still hope that the peace so longed for by the people of Northern Ireland can be achieved if, as in other war-torn areas, your Administration continues to push resolutely for negotiations and a just solution. The most urgent immediate task is to end the latest round of violence. To achieve this, the White House must urge the British government to devise reasonable and fair rules for political marches. It should insist that the peace talks, set to reconvene on September 9 in Belfast with Senator Mitchell presiding, must no longer be sidetracked with wrangling over pre-conditions. An agreement on a balanced agenda must be reached in advance.

Now is perhaps the last opportunity, Mr. President, for a negotiated peace in Northern Ireland. What is urgently needed is for your Administration to stay fully engaged in the search for peace during this political season.

Sincerely,


John J. Sweeney
President

JJS/PAF/jt

SEP 19 1996

