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December 29, 1995

Mr. James J. Gallagher  
Ancient Order of Hibernians in America  
351A Boston Post Road  
East Lyme, Connecticut 06333-1506

Dear James:

Thank you for your letter. I appreciate knowing your ideas about the critical issue of peace in Northern Ireland.

During my visit, I applauded the persistent efforts of Prime Minister Bruton and Prime Minister Major to end the violence and pursue a negotiated settlement, and I am pleased that the United States has been able to contribute to this process of reconciliation. I join with the governments of Ireland and the United Kingdom in the hope and expectation that, with their continued leadership and our continued help, we can bring a lasting and just peace to Northern Ireland.

As my Administration moves forward in our efforts to create a more peaceful, prosperous world, I am grateful for your insights. You have my best wishes.

Sincerely,

**BILL CLINTON**<sup>A</sup>

BC/KMB/JFB/lynn (Corres. #2625044)  
(12.gallagher.jj)

✓cc: w/copy of incoming to Mary Ann Peters

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**DRAFT OF BC LETTER**

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CORRESPONDENCE #: 2625044

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CC: w/copy incoming to Mary Ann Peters

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO:  
Mr. James J. Gallagher  
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Ancient Order of Hibernians in  
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351 A Boston Post Road  
East Lyme, Connecticut 06333-1506

APPROVAL/ENCLOSURES/SPECIAL INSTR:  
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Dear James:

Thank you for your letter. I appreciate knowing your ideas <sup>about</sup> ~~on~~ the critical issue of peace in Northern Ireland.

During my visit, I applauded the persistent efforts of Prime Minister Bruton and Prime Minister Major ~~in their determined work~~ to end the violence and pursue a negotiated settlement, <sup>and</sup> I am pleased that the United States has been able to contribute to this process of reconciliation. I join with the governments of Ireland and the United Kingdom in the hope and expectation that, with their continued leadership and <sup>our continued</sup> ~~with the help~~ of the United States, we can bring a lasting and just peace to Northern Ireland.

As my Administration moves forward in our efforts to create a more peaceful, prosperous world, I am grateful for your insights. <sup>You have</sup> my best wishes.

DEC 22 1995

HONORABLE WILLIAM CLINTON  
 President, United States  
 White House  
 Washington, D.C.

## NATIONAL BOARD



143155

OFFICE OF THE  
 NATIONAL DIRECTOR  
 AND  
 CHAIRMAN  
 IRISH NATIONAL HUNGER  
 COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE

JAMES J. GALLAGHER  
 351A Boston Post Road  
 East Lyme, CT 06333-1506  
 (203) 739-8216

ANCIENT ORDER  
 OF HIBERNIANS IN AMERICA

INCORPORATED

Organized in New York City, May 4, 1836

Dear President Clinton

November 20, 1995

Concerning the lack of progress in the peace process for the northern six counties of Ireland, please consider the points raised in the enclosed paper (two pages). Stronger and more active positions must be taken on the side of right and reason. The immediate issues center on the human and civil rights of a large segment of the citizenry there. The tactics of the British Government and the Unionists parties in the north are unconscionable and scandalous. One can only conclude by the demonstrated performance of the British Government over the past 15 months that they have never been sincere in their call for a peaceful solution in the north of Ireland. Similarly, the absence of sustained pressures on the British Government, from the media, United Nations, European Community and the United States, to exercise responsible and positive actions toward achieving peaceful and just resolutions of the conflicts in that region smacks of alarming negligence. At this time, no one can be surprised at the increasing probability of the resumption of armed conflict to achieve parity status and to end human and civil rights abuses.

On behalf of the Irish-American community, we urge you to contact the responsible parties in this process and strongly request that meaningful and directed negotiations be conducted NOW to resolve real priority problems. I hope that the enclosed material will assist you in applying the necessary and proper pressure.

Please send me a copy of any correspondence that results from this request. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely yours,

James J. Gallagher

"Ireland Unfree Shall Never Be At Peace."

David Trimble's arrogance during his recent visit to the U.S. reflects either a false bravado or a confidence suggesting that he will not be challenged. His alliance with Paisley exhumes the "Ulster Covenant", which translates into a rejection of reason and concern for equal justice. The "historical blunder" that he wrongly interprets is actually the partition which had to be coerced into existence and the unnatural compromise territory that requires gerrymandering and a police state to maintain its existence. The island of Ireland, constituted as four ancient provinces, has a right to govern itself. Whereas, the young artificial statelet of Northern Ireland is but a portion of the ancient province of Ulster; historically, perhaps, the most gaelic of the four provinces.

Presently, all official fingers are pointed only toward Sinn Fein, to unilaterally surrender. The callous intransigence and obstructionist tactics of the British Government over the past 15 months have all but destroyed any element of trust. They have lost all credibility. The resulting increased tensions have dashed the hopes of beleaguered Nationalists in the north for a lasting peace with justice and for the opportunity to live a normal existence. Contradicting Trimble's true test for a genuine peace process, I submit that it is the voluntary relaxation or termination by the British Government of undue civil and human rights violations; these have been the basic elements underlying the hatred, distrust and polarity which generated the conflict. Further, two contributing factors to the present sorry state are that Unionist leaders reject totally any loss of their ill-gotten powers, and, they refuse to live with Catholics.

The negotiating table is tilted at a destructively critical angle. It can be righted by broadening the scope of finger pointing. Given the reluctance of governments to officially balance the items on the table, this then is a responsibility of Irish-America. Reveal to the free world, the terrorism of the Unionist, Orange Order and British Government religious apartheid conspiracy in the north - not since 1968, but since 1921. In all that time, when Catholics were disenfranchised, there was no public concern for democracy nor a call for the recognition of two traditions. Now, however, when the Unionists perceive that they may be losing absolute control, they are pragmatically considering some crumbs that might be offered while retaining total power. Trimble's proposed "assembly" will result in a regression to the oppressive pre-1968 conditions.

Consider the following:

1. Who are the political arms of the UVF, UFF, UDA terrorists and what are the sources of these paramilitaries' arms and munitions - the Orange Order, UUP, DUP, or all three?
2. After more than one year following the declared ceasefires and absence of physical demonstrations, why does the British Government continue the Emergency Powers Act, the Diplock Courts, discrimination in employment and wartime prisoner policies?
3. Why are there still 17,000 British troops in the six counties - about as many as in Bosnia?
4. Why does the sectarian police force, the R.U.C., remain at full 1970's-80's strength?
5. Given the bloodstained hands of the Unionist organizations and the official terrorist practices by the British Government, why are they given full and unconditional status at the proposed "peace table"?
6. Given the terrorist record of the Unionist paramilitaries, why aren't the Unionist parties likewise pressured to "decommission" Loyalist arms as a prerequisite to inclusion in the peace process? Why are the Unionists given veto privilege?

7. Will the effect of the international "decommission commission" be a repeat of the 1920's "boundary commission"? What are the safeguards to prevent stacking the deck against the IRA, or, the Nationalist community in general?
8. Sinn Fein has called for a complete demilitarization of that troubled region, involving Nationalists, Loyalists, Police and Army. While this would seem to be a logical objective, Britain has rejected it. Why? Britain views a request to reduce its armed presence in the north as surrender, yet, they publicly claim that the unilateral handing over of arms by the IRA should not be considered surrender. Doublespeak?

If the governments will not address these and other appropriate issues then let the Irish-American community serve as the "honest broker" to level the negotiating table. Let us begin this action before President Clinton's visit to Britain and Ireland.

Britain and the Unionists are not seeking peace, they are seeking victory. It is clear that before negotiating for their version of peace the British Government is seeking nothing less than surrender, a surrender that they could not achieve on the field of battle. To a rather apathetic world they now take the bullying approach to demand surrender under the bargaining table. Is this a gesture of peace?

The British Government is coldly confident that public outrage will be directed only at overt physical violence and not at the deliberately incendiary and devious time delaying tactics provoking that violence. Certainly, outrage and shame will at some time in this process be expressed by the media and politicians. It should be vented now against the provocative response of the British Government, rather than reserved for later against the renewed violence that will surely come from frustrated, disillusioned and desperate people in the north. Will the critics distinguish between cause and effect? Probably not, as they have appeared not to do so for the past 25 years. Remove the causes of violence and violence (the response) can neither be justified nor supported. For 800 years, Britain's "Irish policies" failed to understand or appreciate this aspect of human nature. Britain's colonial arrogance has blinded them from seeking solutions other than armed suppression.

The lack of media, governmental and United Nations pressure on the British Government is our own fault. We are witness to a scam of international proportions and we are letting it continue without a strong challenge. We must conduct a well organized aggressive campaign to quickly force the open and purposeful implementation of a just peace in Ireland. Each of you must voice your outrage and disgust now at the present destructive inactivity and imbalanced approach to truly peaceful solutions. Contact your elected officials, the British and Irish Governments, the media and the U.N.. World opinion must demand that the British Government redress government violations of civil and human rights in the northern six counties and that they seriously and humanely engage in constructive all-party peace talks - NOW. The ball has been in Britain's court for over a year. If only the ball was as inflated as their egos, it might move more quickly.

James J. Gallagher