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THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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FG035

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 01, 1997

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE JOSEPH J. STRAUB

SUBJECT: ASKS TO BE ON STAFF OF INTERNATIONAL BODY ON
DECOMMISSIONING TO WORK FOR SENATOR MITCHELL,
MR. HOLKERI, & MR. DECHASTELAIN, OR BE ON
SENATOR'S STAFF TO ACHIEVE PEACE IN IRELAND

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
		ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C D
ROBERT NASH		ORG	97/04/01		C 97/04/11
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CJ

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____

MI MAIL USER CODES: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

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| * | * | *CORRESPONDENCE: | * |
| *A-APPROPRIATE ACTION | *A-ANSWERED | *TYPE RESP=INITIALS | * |
| *C-COMMENT/RECOM | *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL | * OF SIGNER | * |
| *D-DRAFT RESPONSE | *C-COMPLETED | * CODE = A | * |
| *F-FURNISH FACT SHEET | *S-SUSPENDED | *COMPLETED = DATE OF | * |
| *I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC* | | * OUTGOING | * |
| *R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY * | | * | * |
| *S-FOR-SIGNATURE | * | * | * |
| *X-INTERIM REPLY | * | * | * |
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REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
(ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT-2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

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Mitch

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THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
KOSSUTH COUNTY COURTHOUSE
ALGONA, IOWA 50511

CAROLYN M. MILLER
COURT REPORTER

JOSEPH J. STRAUB, DISTRICT JUDGE

DISTRICT COURT CHAMBERS
PHONE: 515-295-5540
FAX: 515-295-2820

March 24, 1997

Hon. Bill Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20000

(sorry for the delay)

scribbles

S

Dear Mr. President:

I am deeply interested in the Irish peace talks and the efforts being made by Senator Mitchell and his commission to effect lasting peace in Northern Ireland.

The purpose of this letter is to volunteer my services so that I can do my part to achieve peace in Ireland. I would be happy to serve either as a member of Senator Mitchell's staff or to serve on the staff of the International Body on Decommissioning working for Senator Mitchell, Mr. Holkeri and Mr. DeChastelain.

I believe my background qualifies me for service in either capacity. I graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1952 with a degree in journalism and from the Notre Dame Law School in 1955. I have been very active in community affairs all my life. I have been a district judge in Iowa for almost 10 years. I am used to making difficult decisions and working with parties before trial to help them negotiate their differences. Before that I was engaged in the private practice of law for approximately 30 years, including 10 years as county attorney and chief prosecutor for Kossuth County, Iowa.

I was a Carter delegate to the 1976 Democratic National Convention and attended many state and district conventions and I interact with people very well. I believe that I have the type of personal, professional and experiential background which would enable me to serve well in some capacity on either of the staffs mentioned earlier.

Even though I was very active in democratic party politics for many years, I was appointed to the district court by a republican governor, Governor Branstad. I think that is evidence of my reputation for evenhandedness and my ability to fairly evaluate disparate positions on serious issues.

MAR 31

I do not consider myself an "expert" on Irish affairs in the sense that I have devoted most of my time as a scholar studying Irish history. However, I have more than a casual interest in Irish history, especially modern Irish history and have read many books, newspapers and magazine articles on the subject of the troubles in Northern Ireland. I am well acquainted with the work of the International Commission and of the complex personal and historical challenges facing Senator Mitchell as chairman of that commission. I subscribe to the Irish Voice published by Niall O'Dowd in New York so that I can be up to date about the peace process; however, I assume that there are things happening which have not been publicly disseminated.

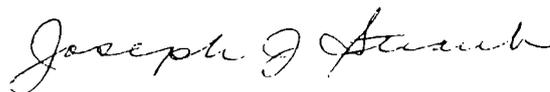
I am approaching the age when many persons think of retiring. I am now 67 years old and Iowa is one of those states which has a senior judge system which will require me to work 3 months a year in order to obtain maximum pension benefits. I intend to qualify as a senior judge when I retire. Therefore, if my offer is accepted, it would have to be on the condition that I would maintain my Iowa residence and return to Iowa for at least 3 months each year (not necessarily consecutive months) to perform duties as a senior judge. Because the talks in Ireland are interrupted from time to time, it is my feeling that such an arrangement could be worked out.

At the outset of this letter, I stated that I am willing to volunteer my services so I would not expect to be compensated except for reimbursement for expenses advanced.

I would appreciate it if you would give this very careful consideration. I have also written to Senator Mitchell and I sent him a copy of this letter. Since the talks have been suspended until after the British elections, if my offer is accepted within a reasonable time, I would have sufficient time before the talks resume to resign my office, give the State of Iowa sufficient time to name a replacement and to do the in-depth study which will be necessary for me to "catch up" with the work of the commission.

I also wish you a speedy recovery from your knee problem.

Yours very respectfully,



Joseph J. Straub

JJS/cmm

cc: Senator Mitchell