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US AID FOR PEACE.

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AMBASÁID NA HÉIREANN
TELEPHONE: (202) 462-3939
FAX: (202) 232-5993



EMBASSY OF IRELAND
2234 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008

FAX NO: (18)

11 cc. PST, 7. Jan 95.
PSS.
A/Sec ohung-ou.
Mr T Dalton
Mr S. Hare DIT
SECRETARIAL
Comp/ARS A1

10 JANUARY 1995

TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON
FOR G CORR FROM M COLLINS

RE: NORAIID

As you are aware, Irish Northern Aid (Noraid) is about to embark on 25th anniversary celebrations. We have had an indication from the State Department that Joe Cahill is likely to be present at some of these events. I asked Dermot Brangan in New York to prepare a note on Noraid in the light of Sinn Féin's activities here and Noraid's prospective relationship with Cairde Sinn Féin, the entity which is likely to emerge as the new Sinn Féin fundraising vehicle in the future. I attach a copy of his report which is helpful and informative.

Mr. McCarthy *McCarthy* 11/1/95
Report (entire), (summarized at
p. 7) is of interest.

(TOTAL NO OF PAGES: 5)
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Mr. Gillin
5/12 12.1.95.

S. Hare 10.1.95.

NORAIID AND ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

1. THE NEW INCOMING NATIONAL CHAIRMAN OF NORAIID, PAUL DORIS, HAS TAKEN THE OPPORTUNITY OF HIS APPOINTMENT TO USE THE EDITORIAL COLUMN OF THE CURRENT ISSUE OF THE IRISH PEOPLE PAPER TO SET OUT THE ORGANISATION'S AIMS FOR 1995, ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY.
2. IN ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR, NORAIID COMMITS ITSELF TO A "YEAR OF WORK" TO SEEK REDRESS TO HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS ABUSES IN NORTHERN IRELAND, A POLITICAL PRISONER AMNESTY (WHICH DORIS SAYS IS THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY) AND WORKING TO SEE THE PEACE PROCESS SUCCEED. AS PART OF THE PROGRAMME FOR THE YEAR OF WORK, NORAIID INTENDS TO CONTINUE FUNDRAISING AT ITS 25 ANNIVERSARY NATIONAL TESTIMONIAL AND AT REGIONAL TESTIMONIALS IN SAN FRANCISCO, PHILADELPHIA, BOSTON, LYNN (MASS), NEW YORK, DETROIT, CHICAGO AND NEW JERSEY. OTHER AIMS INCLUDE AN IRISH PEOPLE SUBSCRIPTION DRIVE, A NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMME, INCREASED MERCHANDISING, AND VARIOUS PROGRAMMES IN RELATION TO POLITICAL PRISONERS. THREE EVENTS ARE TO BE ESPECIALLY COMMEMORATED, THE 1916 EASTER RISING, THE 1981 HUNGER STRIKE, AND BLOODY SUNDAY, BUT CO-ORDINATED PROTESTS IN SUPPORT OF AN AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS WILL ALSO BE HELD.
3. DORIS LIVES IN PHILADELPHIA AND IS FROM TYRONE. HIS CHOICE AS NATIONAL CHAIRMAN APPEARS TO REFLECT SINN FEIN'S WISH TO HAVE NORTHERN IRISH BORN IN POSITIONS OF POWER IN NORAIID. THE ANNOUNCEMENT LATER THIS MONTH OF THE REST OF NORAIID'S NATIONAL EXECUTIVE SHOULD ALSO REFLECT THIS PLUS THE NEW POLITICAL REALITIES IN IRELAND. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT SOME OF DORIS' NORTHERN BORN FRIENDS IN PHILADELPHIA ARE LIKELY TO BE AMONG THOSE PROMOTED TO THE EXECUTIVE. GERRY ADAMS TOLD THE IRISH TIMES' WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT DURING HIS LAST U.S. VISIT, THERE WERE NO PLANS TO REPLACE NORAIID WITH A CAIRDE SINN FEIN (WHICH IS LIKELY TO COME INTO EXISTENCE AS SOON AS THE STATE AND JUSTICE DEPARTMENTS GIVE THE APPROPRIATE PERMISSIONS). THE TACTIC FOR THE MOMENT SEEMS TO BE TO ALLOW BOTH NORAIID AND CAIRDE SINN FEIN TO EXIST IN PARALLEL. MOVES TO MERGE BOTH WOULD APPEAR IN SINN FEIN'S VIEW TO BE UNNECESSARILY DIVISIVE AND COULD LEAD TO DEFECTIONS TO FRIENDS OF IRISH FREEDOM(FOIF). SINN FEIN WANT TO RETAIN THE GOODWILL OF THOSE IRISH AMERICANS WHO SUPPORTED THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT FOR THE LAST 25 YEARS BUT AT THE SAME TIME THEY WISH TO EXERT MORE CONTROL

OVER THE ACTIVITIES OF NORAIID. HENCE, THE CHANGE OF PERSONNEL IN NORAIID AND IN PARTICULAR THE REMOVAL OF MARTIN GALVIN AS EDITOR OF THE IRISH PEOPLE.

4. THE REPLACEMENT OF MARTIN GALVIN AS EDITOR OF THE IRISH PEOPLE FROM 1ST JANUARY THIS YEAR IS PART OF THE TAKEOVER OF NORAIID BY SINN FEIN. THE NEW EDITOR OF THE PAPER IS LARRY QUINN, WHO IS IRISH AMERICAN, BUT IS REGARDED AS WEAK AND MALLEABLE AND WILL BE EDITOR SOLELY IN NAME. GALVIN'S REMOVAL HAS BEEN FLAGGED IN PREVIOUS REPORTS BY THE CONSULATE AS HIS PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH ADAMS HAVE BEEN NON EXISTENT FOR SOME TIME I.E. HE'S NOT TRUSTED BY BELFAST. HIS DECISION, FOR EXAMPLE, TO ALLOW AN ADVERTISEMENT IN THE IRISH PEOPLE CRITICISING THE IRA CEASEFIRE FROM GEORGE HARRISON WHO HAS LINKS WITH FOIF AND REPUBLICAN SF, WAS SEEN AS A DIRECT CHALLENGE TO SF IN BELFAST.

5. ONE OF THE QUESTIONS FACING THE NORAIID NATIONAL EXECUTIVE WILL BE THE FUTURE OF THE IRISH PEOPLE PAPER. ITS STATED CIRCULATION OF 5,000 IS WELL BELOW ITS PRODUCTION COSTS AND WHILE THE DRIVE FOR NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS MIGHT ASSIST MATTERS, ITS LONG TERM FINANCIAL VIABILITY IS DOUBTFUL. I UNDERSTAND THAT MUCH OF NORAIID'S CURRENT FUNDRAISING NOW GOES TO PAY FOR THE PAPER'S UPKEEP. THE EXECUTIVE MAY BE FORCED LATER THIS YEAR TO SHUT IT DOWN AND REPLACE IT WITH AN PHOBLAUGHT SENT DIRECTLY FROM IRELAND. THIS WILL BE SEEN BY IRISH AMERICANS AS A FURTHER EXAMPLE OF HOW THEIR ORGANISATION IS BEING SUPPLANTED BY PEOPLE AND VIEWS FROM BELFAST.

6. THE LATTER IS THE NUB OF THE CURRENT DEBATE IN NORAIID. IRISH AMERICANS RESENT THE ORGANISATION BEING TAKEN OVER BY THE IRISH BORN WHOSE FIRST ALLEGIANCE IS TO SINN FEIN, BELFAST. LAST THURSDAY THERE WAS A NORAIID MEETING HERE IN NEW YORK, WHERE IT WAS STRONGLY SUGGESTED THAT UNLESS MARTIN GALVIN GETS A SENIOR POSITION IN THE NEW EXECUTIVE THAT HE AND HIS SUPPORTERS WOULD LEAVE NORAIID. TWO FURTHER MEETINGS HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED BY DORIS ON THE 14 AND 16 JANUARY TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEMS IN RELATION TO THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW EXECUTIVE. I UNDERSTAND THAT SINN FEIN MAY DISPATCH MAIREAD KEANE TO ASSIST IN THE RESOLUTION OF THIS DIFFICULTY.

7. IN SUMMARY, SINN FEIN'S WISH TO MOLD NORAIID IN ITS OWN IMAGE IS PROCEEDING, BUT THERE CONTINUES TO BE SOME RESISTANCE TO CHANGE AND TO THE FACT THAT

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MANY OF THE OLD STALWARTS DO NOT LIKE TAKING
ORDERS FROM BELFAST OR FROM NORTHERN IRISH BORN
AMERICANS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN AROUND FOR THE
STRUGGLE HERE IN THE US FOR THE LAST 25 YEARS. THE
IMMINENT ARRIVAL OF A CAIRDE SINN FEIN
ORGANISATION MAY FURTHER COMPLICATE MATTERS
ESPECIALLY REGARDING FUND RAISING.