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URGENT
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TO HQ FROM CGNY VIA PMUN
FOR AMBASSADOR DONLON (C/O ASST. SEC. NELIGAN) FROM SMYTH

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DRAFT DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM ON NORTHERN IRELAND

1. INTRODUCTION

cc. PSM
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AFTER MORE THAN A WEEK OF HAGGLING BETWEEN SUPPORTERS OF PRESIDENT CARTER AND SENATOR KENNEDY, THE DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM COMMITTEE LATE YESTERDAY (WED. JUNE 24) ADOPTED A 40,000 WORD DRAFT DOCUMENT FOR THE PARTY'S PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE TO RUN ON THIS AUTUMN.

SENATOR KENNEDY'S DELEGATES MANAGED TO CHANGE THE WORDING ON FINE POINTS THROUGHOUT THE PLATFORM BUT, EXCEPT FOR A STATEMENT AGAINST NUCLEAR POWER AND IN FAVOUR OF ABORTION, THERE IS NOTHING IN THE DRAFT PLATFORM WHICH CONFLICTS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER'S VIEWS ON ANY MAJOR ISSUE. THE PLATFORM COMMITTEE'S 158 DELEGATES, ON WHICH THE PRESIDENT'S SUPPORTERS HELD A MAJORITY OF NEARLY 2 TO 1, ROUGHTLY REFLECTING THE PROPORTION OF DELEGATES HE WON IN THE PRIMARIES AND CAUCUSES, REJECTED MANY ITEMS THAT FORM THE BASIS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SENATOR'S CHALLENGE.

THE DOCUMENT WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE PARTY'S CONVENTION AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN, NEW YORK FROM 11-14 AUGUST. (SPEAKER O'NEILL WDLL BE THE CONVENTION CHAIRMAN). SENATOR KENNEDY'S REPRESENTATIVES SAID YESTERDAY THAT BY THE END OF THIS WEEK THEY WOULD FILE WITH THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE SEVERAL MINORITY PLANKS TO BE OFFERED AT THE CONVENTION.

MUCH OF THE LANGUAGE IN THE DRAFT PLATFORM IS FAMILIAR, GEARED TO THE CONCERNS OF TRADITIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONSTITUENCIES - MINORITIES, THE POOR, UNION WORKERS AND THE HANDICAPPED.

2. IRELAND

THE PLANK ON THE NORTHERN IRELAND SITUATION IS AS FOLLOWS:

"CONSISTENT WITH OUR TRADITIONAL CONCERN FOR PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS, THE DEMOCRATIC ADMINISTRATION WILL PLAY A POSITIVE ROLE IN SEEKING PEACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND. WE CONDEMN THE VIOLENCE ON ALL SIDES. WE WILL ENCOURAGE PROGRESS TOWARD A LONGTERM SOLUTION BASED UPON THE CONSENT OF ALL PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT. WE NOTE THE 1980 ST. PATRICK'S DAY STATEMENT WHICH EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR IRISH UNITY AND AFFIRMED "THAT THE SOLUTION OFFERING THE GREATEST PROMISE OF PERMANENT PEACE IS TO END THE DIVISION OF THE IRISH PEOPLE." "

"NEW POLITICAL STRUCTURES WHICH ARE CREATED SHOULD PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS, AND SHOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND AND TO BOTH PARTS OF THE COMMUNITY OF NORTHERN IRELAND."

THE PLANK WAS ADOPTED YESTERDAY WITHOUT A VOTE FOLLOWING A WEEK-LONG DISPUTE BETWEEN KENNEDY AND CARTER DELEGATES ON THE QUESTION OF SUPPORTING THE UNITY OF IRELAND. SENTENCES 1, 2 AND 5 SURVIVED FROM THE ORIGINAL KENNEDY/MOYNIHAN DRAFT

BUT THEIR ORIGINAL PROPOSAL FOR SENTENCES 3 AND 4 WAS THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE:

"AS A LONGTERM SOLUTION WE WILL ENCOURAGE PROGRESS TO ACHIEVE THE UNITY OF IRELAND, WITH THE CONSENT OF ALL PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT."

BEFORE THE 158 MEMBERS OF THE PLATFORM COMMITTEE BEGAN TO DEBATE THE ISSUES LAST SATURDAY, JUNE 21, A SUBCOMMITTEE OF 15 MET FOR 3 DAYS ON WHICH PRESIDENT CARTER HAD 9 SUPPORTERS, KENNEDY HAD 5, AND THERE WAS ONE INDEPENDENT, SENATOR MOYNIHAN.

AT A CLOSED SESSION OF THIS SUBCOMMITTEE ON FRIDAY, JUNE 20, FIVE FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES GAVE RISE TO SERIOUS DISPUTE: U.S. RECOGNITION OF JERUSALEM AS THE CAPITAL OF ISRAEL

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(SUBSEQUENTLY PASSED), THE SALE OF WEAPONS TO ARAB COUNTRIES, AID TO TURKEY, SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA AND IRISH UNITY. THE NY TIMES ON SATURDAY MORNING, IN A FRONT PAGE STORY, LEAKED THE DIVISION AND INTER ALIA, THE FACT THAT DAVID AARON, PRESIDENT CARTER'S DEPUTY ASSISTANT ON THE NSC, SUCCESSFULLY OPPOSED IRISH UNITY AS A LONGTERM GOAL. HE WAS REPORTED AS ARGUING THAT THE U.S. SHOULD BE IN A POSITION OF ENCOURAGING PEACE IN IRELAND BUT SHOULD NOT TELL THE IRISH HOW TO ACCOMPLISH THAT GOAL (AN AIDE WHO WAS PRESENT INFORMED ME PRIVATELY THAT AARON SAID THE REFERENCE WOULD BE AN INSULT TO THE BRITISH).

THE EFFECT OF THE NY TIMES STORY WAS TO EMBARRASS THE CARTER DELEGATES AND EFFORTS WERE MADE BY THEN TO INTRODUCE SOME REFERENCE INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING:

....TO WORK WITH GREAT BRITAIN ON THE BASIS OF IRISH UNITY

....TO ENCOURAGE PROGRESS TOWARD A LONGTERM SOLUTION BASED UPON CONSENT OF ALL PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT, INCLUDING POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF IRISH UNITY.

3. THE PLANK ADOPTED MARKS AN ADVANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S POINT OF VIEW ON THE LANGUAGE IN THE 1976 DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM AND PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT IN 1977, NEITHER OF WHICH MADE ANY REFERENCE TO IRISH UNITY.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES ARE NOT BOUND TO ABIDE BY THEIR PARTY'S PLATFORM AND ONCE ELECTED PRESIDENTS OFTEN IGNORE PORTIONS OF THEM. NEVERTHELESS PRESIDENTS CANNOT DISCARD THE RECOMMENDATIONS ALTOGETHER WITHOUT REPUDIATING THEIR PARTY.

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