

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

## IRELAND



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AMBASÁID NA HÉIREANN

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EMBASSY OF IRELAND

2234 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N. W.

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008

DI.61

14 February 1984

Secretary  
Department of Foreign Affairs

Attention - Anglo-Irish Division

*Mr. Sheehan  
Place RS (Grant)  
Mr. Davenport  
File: 8/5/2  
(Return this copy to me pl.)*

I send you a copy of a letter of 6th February from the Consul General in Boston and attached papers relating to the proposed visit of Mayor Flynn to Ireland.

*22-2-84*

From previous reports by the Consulate it seems clear that the position of the Mayor of Boston remains a potentially influential one in terms of the attitude to Irish affairs of considerable sections of the Irish-American community in that city, and that it would be to our advantage to secure his support in promoting our Government's policies in the Boston area.

As you will see from the attached reports, Aer Lingus and Bord Failte are extending certain facilities to the Mayor, his wife and his Press Officer, Mr Frank Costello. Apart from political considerations, useful publicity for tourism in the Boston area is likely to follow from the Mayor's visit, particularly at a time when a pick-up in American tourism to Ireland is to be expected due to the continuing strength of the dollar.

From our own point of view, should the Mayor decline to attend the Noraid dinner on 18th February, it would be important for the Government to recognize this effective support by extending courtesies to the Mayor and his party while they are in Ireland. I would strongly recommend that in such an event we should contribute to what is already being done by Aer Lingus and Bord Failte by providing transport for at least some members of the party and by providing hotel accommodation for the Press Officer, who is obviously the Mayor's liaison with the Consulate. I also support the Consul General's recommendation that we include Senate President Bulger in any hospitality offered while the party are in Dublin and that we take that opportunity for a political briefing.

We shall be in touch with you as soon as we have a report on the question of attendance at the Noraid Banquet.

*[Signature]*  
Ambassador



TEL. 267-9330

CONSULATE GENERAL OF IRELAND

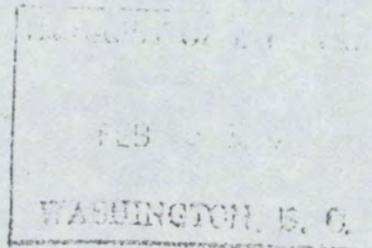
535 BOYLSTON STREET

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02116

B.3/7

6th February 1984

CONFIDENTIAL



His Excellency  
Tadhg O'Sullivan,  
Embassy of Ireland,  
2234 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Ambassador,

The attached report submitted by the Vice Consul will be of interest. It is clear that Noraid attaches a great deal of importance to the Mayor's attendance at the 18 February dinner. If Frank Costello is speaking authoritatively (and we have no reason to doubt it) it is equally clear that Mayor Flynn will not attend. Such an outcome would represent a significant setback for Noraid in this area.

On Mayor Flynn's visit to Ireland our feeling is that it is essential that the trip be as successful as possible. Anything that the Department could do in this regard would, in political terms, be money well spent. In concrete terms this would involve providing hotel accommodation for Frank Costello and a car/cars for the party (which BFE will not do).

While Senate President Bulger has not been on our wavelength politically in the past it would seem a pity not to utilise this opportunity to expose him to Irish government thinking in Dublin. Obviously this would be much easier to do were we to offer Senator Bulger and his wife some hospitality. It must be borne in mind that the Senate President is probably the most powerful figure in Massachusetts politics.

It appears that the Mayoral party will only be in Dublin for the night of 17 March and will then travel to Cork, Limerick and Galway, returning to Boston via Shannon on 22 March. A political briefing might be feasible over lunch on 17 March?

Yours sincerely,  
*Pat Curran*  
PATRICK H. CURRAN  
Consul General

PHC/gmg



TEL. 267-9330

CONSULATE GENERAL OF IRELAND

535 BOYLSTON STREET

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02116

CONFIDENTIAL

To: Consul General

From: Vice Consul

Date: 6th February 1984

This report should be read in conjunction with my minute of January 11 (copy attached). Frank Costello (Press Secretary for Mayor Flynn) visited my apartment for dinner on Saturday 4 February. We had a wide ranging discussion on the Mayor's first month in office with particular emphasis on the Northern Ireland situation. Costello said that the Mayor had received an official invitation to the Noraid Annual Banquet to be held on 18 February. The Mayor had decided not to attend and had indicated to the organisers that he probably would not be in Boston on that date. He had received a letter stating "that he had sold out to the Irish Government and the Washington Post". Commenting on the Mayor's presence at the Bloody Sunday Commemoration on 29 January (organised by Noraid amongst others) Costello stated that the Mayor felt strongly on the human rights issue. He also said that the Mayor's statement had condemned violence (this condemnation was not reported in all papers). Costello had attended a reception in the British Consulate on the previous night and apparently the British Consul General (David Burns) had remarked that he was quite happy with the Mayor's remarks at the Bloody Sunday Commemoration !

We spoke about the Mayor's forthcoming trip to Ireland. Costello asked me if we could arrange anything for Senate President Bulger and his wife who is also travelling with the party. (Aer Lingus is providing three free tickets for the Mayor and his wife and Costello, Bord Fáilte is providing hotel rooms for the Mayor and his wife only). I simply replied that these are matters primarily for the agencies directly involved. Costello said that some of the Boston television and radio stations would be covering the trip and that the entire party might number 15-20 persons.

#### Conclusion

If the Mayor does not attend the Noraid Banquet it will be a severe blow to its morale (it is still widely believed in Noraid circles that he will attend). We now have a "direct line" to the Mayor and he is fully aware of our sensitivities on this issue.

We should in my opinion facilitate the Mayor's party as much as possible during his visit to Ireland. We might perhaps provide a political briefing

.../...

Noraid and Flynn - General

From speaking to Costello and a number of other contacts it appears Noraid believe that they have Flynn's ear. John Hurley, - a Noraid activist and 1984 New York Noraid Testimonial Dinner Honoree was present in the same establishment as Costello and I. Hurley (who is reputed to have given Flynn his first job on the docks of Boston) counts himself among Flynn's advisers although I have been told that this is an exaggeration. Hurley owns a public house in Boston and is also a member of the International Longshoremen's Association. I have been told that Hurley organises a collection for Noraid amongst members of this union in Boston and that this is carried out with the knowledge of Teddy Gleason who knows Hurley very well. However my contact on this matter is not totally reliable and it is difficult to extricate the truth from the rumours.

Conclusion

While Mayor Flynn may have had Noraid affiliations in the past I believe that his closest advisors will counsel him to create a distance between himself and that organisation. He is well disposed to the Consulate and we should continue to develop our contacts and rapport with his administration. We should assist as much as possible his proposed trip to Ireland.

*Brendan Rogers.*

Brendan Rogers  
Vice Consul

BR/cad

January 11, 1984

To: Patrick H. Curran, Consul General

From: Brendan Rogers, Vice Consul

Last night I had occasion to have a couple of drinks with Frank Costello who is, as you are aware, Mayor Ray Flynn's Press Secretary. We had a fairly full exchange of views on issues of interest to the Consulate. The following is a summary of our discussion.

Mayor Flynn's proposed visit to Ireland

The Mayor intends to visit Ireland from approx. March 14 - March 18. His party will consist of 9 people (all of those listed in Costello's letter of 6 January to me and Peter Lucas who is the political correspondent of the Boston Herald). Costello indicated that the Mayor would like to have Aer Lingus and Bord Failte fully involved in the proposed trip. He also indicated that there had been a number of offers to pay for the trip from various quarters. I also learned from another contact that certain "Republican elements" would like to become involved in sponsoring the visit to the exclusion of the Irish Government. I fully believe, however, that Costello would wish to have us assist the group in whatever way we can. In the light of the publicity which a trip of this nature would garner and the importance of the people involved I believe that serious consideration should be given to paying the airfares and accommodation of the party.

Noraid Annual Dinner

As you know Flynn was a guest at the Noraid annual dinner in 1983. It appears according to one of my contacts that there is a certain amount of satisfaction in Noraid circles that "one of our own is Mayor". Costello asked me about the 1984 Noraid dinner. He suggested that Flynn might attend and speak out against violence. I replied that this was an unrealistic gesture as the Mayor's mere presence would imply support. I outlined the Irish Government's objections to Noraid and Costello himself described them as "a bunch of whackos". I got the impression that Costello was strongly advising the Mayor not to attend the banquet. Of course the Mayor is fully aware that the Boston Globe has an interest in this matter (editorial of ). I believe that Ray Flynn's presence at last years Noraid event was pure political expediency and did not indicate support for violence. Flynn had good relations with the previous British Consul General and has established links with the new Consul. Indeed I met the new Consul David Burns at Flynn's Inauguration Ball. However, Costello also mentioned that his office had received complaints at the British presence at the inauguration. In conclusion I do not think that Flynn will attend the Noraid dinner although he may send a representative "to speak out against violence".

Noraid and Flynn - General

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*Brendan Rogers.*

Brendan Rogers  
Vice Consul

BR/cad