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CONFIDENTIAL

INF. 25/25/1

AIRMAIL

February 15, 1985.

Secretary
Department of Foreign Affairs
Dublin.

Attention: Mr. Bernard Davenport

Re: St. Patrick's Day Parade 1985

For the record the result of the election for Grand Marshall which took place on Tuesday, February 12 was as follows:

Peter King	151
Al O Hagan	134
Bill Burke	102

Nominations for the post were received the previous evening. Efforts to have the nomination of Mrs. Hayden Cudahy accepted by the Committee were ruled out by the Chairman. Not surprisingly wholehearted support for the acceptance of her nomination came from King's supporters, spearheaded by Noraid officers, Martin Galvin, Father Martin Burke, Michael Flannery, Frank Feighery and others. In addition Paul O'Dwyer, who supported the candidacy of Al O'Hagan for the post, also wholeheartedly endorsed Mrs. Cudahy's nomination. Interestingly other O'Hagan supporters did not speak out in favour of Mrs. Cudahy's nomination. Bill Burke and his supporters were approached by Mrs. Cudahy for support in the efforts to have her nomination accepted but, in what they now see as a tactical blunder, they refused such support indicating that they would stand by the decision of the Chairman.

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Department of Foreign Affairs
February 15, 1985.
Page 2.

Following the selection of the Grand Marshall efforts were made to nominate a variety of people for the position of honorary Grand Marshall. These included Joseph Doherty, currently the subject of a British extradition application, a Patrolman Sullivan from the Bronx, who is under indictment on a charge of manslaughter in connection with the attempted arrest of a deranged 68 year old woman in the Bronx, and Andrew Duggan convicted of conspiracy to export arms to Ireland. All of these proposals were rejected by the Chairman who insisted that it is his prerogative to select the honorary Grand Marshall. The Chairman has told me that it was his intention to offer the appointment to Archbishop O'Connor but he was doubtful if, in view of King's selection, the Archbishop would respond favourably. Other names being considered include that of Eamon Coghlan. The selection of Archbishop O'Connor, Eamon Coghlan or Patrolman Sullivan (the latter would be a bizarre choice) should at least have the effect of distracting attention from King's election.

The Ambassador and I met with the State sponsored bodies on 14 February to consider inter alia the position with regard to the Parade. We outlined our attitude as set out in the enclosures to our minute of 6 February and found general acceptance for the line taken. IDA have decided not to proceed with their planned reception at the St. Regis Hotel and Bord Failte, albeit with slight reluctance, have also decided not to have their usual reception in their Fifth Avenue premises on the day of the Parade, 16 March. These decisions were reached because of our expectations that King and his supporters will make every effort to make this a pro-IRA and pro-Noraid Parade.

The only Aer Lingus involvement with the Parade last year related to the supply of shamrock both for the installation meeting and at the start of the Parade. It was agreed that the shamrock should be made available again this year for both events but that Aer Lingus personnel would not be on hand at either event.

We have received no indication as yet as to what attitude the Archbishop is likely to take with regard to the Mass, the Parade and the Grand Marshall. However, we have taken the precaution of forwarding a letter, copy attached and enclosures, to the Archbishop so as to indicate our reservations with regard to the Grand Marshall.

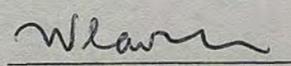
Department of Foreign Affairs
February 15, 1985
Page 3.

To date media reaction to the King appointment has not been substantial. However, it is early days yet. We will keep matters under review and will be in contact with the Department again as we get closer to the Parade date.

As the Department is aware from earlier correspondence this office does not favour issuing a statement about the Parade if this can be avoided. However, should the Department decide to issue a statement the inclusion of the formula set out below would seem to us to merit serious consideration. The form of words chosen is deliberately ambiguous so as to leave open to doubt up to the last moment the question of attendance at the Parade.

"As in previous years the Irish Government representative at the Parade will not be present on the Dais for elements representing or supporting the IRA or Irish Northern Aid".

Notwithstanding this formula it would not be our intention to attend the Parade unless the Department wished us to do so.



Consul General.

cc: Amabassador, Washington