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TELEPHONE
(212) 319-2555

ROINN GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA
FRITH

- 6 JAN 1986

UMH. TAG

CONSULATE GENERAL OF IRELAND
515 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

December 23, 1985

Secretary
Department of Foreign Affairs
Dublin

Re: Anglo-Irish Agreement

It will come as no surprise to learn that the reaction within this consular area to the Anglo-Irish accord ranges right across the spectrum. Necessarily the assessment which follows is subjective. Moreover, as has been pointed out before the reaction in this community is unlikely to be paralleled elsewhere in the U.S.

Mayor Koch was briefed on the Agreement by the Consul General. Due to the coincidental absence of Governor Cuomo and Cardinal O'Connor from the State when the Agreement was announced, we had to be content with providing briefings for their aides. We understand that both the Governor and Cardinal received memoranda from their aides regarding the Agreement and that their reaction was one of satisfaction both with the briefing and the content of the Agreement. The fact is that to date, to our knowledge none of the three personalities mentioned have made any public comment about the Agreement. This is a satisfactory outcome from our standpoint as in arranging briefings our primary concern was to prevent a negative reaction to the accord rather than encouraging them to make statements.

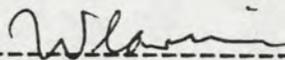
Our contacts with those in the business, academic and professional community indicate almost uniform support of the Agreement. Many have complimented the Government on the imaginative way in which the problem was approached. Most of this group are either not active in the organized Irish American community or would be members of groups such as the American Irish Historical Society or the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

The strongest reaction has come from those who are active in the AOH. Perhaps the most noteworthy reaction in this

respect has been the admission of the National Vice President, Nick Murphy, and the State Presidents of New York and New Jersey, that they had not been consulted by the National President, Joe Roche, about the content of the statement which he issued rejecting the Agreement. Mr. Nick Murphy has, as usual, taken his line from Mr. Haughey in opposing the Agreement because of his concern about the impact of the Agreement on Arts. 2 and 3 of the Constitution. This is an attitude which is quite widely supported. Nonetheless even among this group there are many (from our contacts it would seem a majority) who feel that the Agreement should be given a chance. Frequently, however, they also articulate their skepticism about having to depend on the British Government. The reaction from our Irish County Associations contacts has been more positive than that from the AOH; but they too are very guarded about trusting the British. The other major grouping in this area is the Emerald Societies. The vast majority of their membership take little active part in their affairs. Those who are active tend to support the agenda of the Caucus and so their reaction has been to echo the phrase of Congressman Biaggi that the Agreement represents "a fragile step" but go further and declare that it is doomed to failure.

To summarise then we would regard the overall attitude to the Agreement in this consular area as a guarded welcome. Such a reaction would not have been expected 2 to 3 years ago and it says much for the progress which has been made in the interim. The change of attitude is attributable to the impact made initially by the New Ireland Forum, the outrage at Mrs. Thatcher's remarks following the Chequers Summit in 1984 and the unexpected concession by Mrs. Thatcher in the Agreement of a formal say for the Irish Government in Northern Ireland's affairs.

To say the least of it the community here is not noted for its patience and we anticipate considerable pressure in the months to come from those who would expect to see hard evidence, in the sense of meaningful improvements on the ground for the nationalist community, that the Agreement is being energetically implemented.



Consul General

c.c. Ambassador - Washington. D.C.