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cc Ms. Anderson
A PAO Boston
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CONSULATE GENERAL OF IRELAND
Boston

October 8, 1987

The Secretary
Department of Foreign Affairs

Attention: Mr. Ray Bassett, Anglo Irish

Visit of Tom King, Secretary of State for N. Ireland to Boston

The Secretary of State for N. Ireland visited Boston on the 24/25 September - a few days before the Tanaiste arrived in Boston. The British Consulate General kept the visit low key and consequently little public attention focused on Mr. King's itinerary except for some press comments (attached).

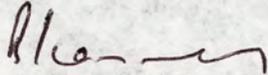
The main story arising from the visit was Mayor Flynn's and Representative Joe Kennedy's comments on the publication of the Religious Equality of Opportunity in Employment Guide to Effective Practice. Mayor Flynn and Rep. Kennedy stated inter alia that the new guidelines "do not have the force of law and will be ineffective in halting discrimination against Catholics". The British for their part, I understand tried to down play the whole issue of fair employment practices and laid the emphasis during the visit to Boston on attracting potential investors to N. Ireland.

I attended a short luncheon hosted by Boston Ireland Ventures at which Mr. King was guest of honour. Nothing of note transpired and Mr. King gave an innocuous five minute talk on the N. Ireland economy - no mention was made of the MacBride Principles or fair employment practices or indeed of the question of the administration of justice. Mr. King was upbeat that his visit to Boston had not encountered any public protests or demonstrations and by doing so inferred that the British Government policy directions in N. Ireland were by and large being received well in North America.

I understand that Mr. King made a call on Cardinal Bernard Law of Boston during which he looked for support for the Guide to Effective Practices. Speaking to the British Consul General

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subsequently he was relieved that the visit went off without incident though he was unable to point to any concrete benefits arising from Mr. King's visit.



Brendan Scannell
Consul General

BS/cad

Enclosures/Clippings:

Flynn, Rep. Kennedy attack N. Ireland proposal (Globe 25 September)
Flynn urges Irish investment, (Globe 26 September 1987)
Job Bias in Northern Ireland, (Boston Globe (Sunday) Editorial
September 27, 1987.