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Roinn an Taoisigh
Department of the Taoiseach

23 March 1987

Mr Noel Dorr
Secretary
Department of Foreign Affairs

Dear Noel

I enclose, for information, a copy of a note I made on the Taoiseach's recent visit to the United States.

You will notice that he wishes to have particular attention paid to:-

- (1) pursuing the case for some relief for "illegal Irish immigrants";
- (2) special attention to the forthcoming visit by the Friends of Ireland, which he would like to see developed in the form of a seminar or colloquium on the lines indicated in the note; and
- (3) arrangements to facilitate Secretary of State Schultz, possibly on his way back from his forthcoming visit to Moscow.

The Taoiseach would like an assessment from your Department of the visit, in all its aspects, in due course.

Yours sincerely

Dermot Nally

ROINN AN TAOISIGH

Uimhir.....

Taoiseach's Visit to the United States

Travel, etc. arrangements

The Taoiseach and Mrs Haughey were accompanied by his Private Secretary, Mr Morgan, and the undersigned. In Washington, the Government Press Secretary, Mr Mara, joined the party. The Tanaiste, Mr Lenihan, and Secretary Dorr of Foreign Affairs had been in Washington for the previous day and stayed a day longer than the Taoiseach to attend different meetings and functions.

On his departure, the Taoiseach was seen off from Dublin Airport by the Minister for Energy, Deputy Tunney and other representatives as well as by Mr Brian Slowey, Chairman of Aer Lingus, Niall Weldon, Company Secretary, and Mr Cathal Mullan, Assistant Chief Executive, Mr Frank Hardy, and Mr Martin Dully, Chairman and Chief Executive of Aer Rianta, respectively.

The welcoming party in Shannon included the Ministers for Tourism, Fisheries and Forestry and Defence as well as the Mayor of Limerick (?) and other local representatives.

The welcoming party in New York included Consul General Flavin, David Kennedy, Chief Executive of Aer Lingus, and others. In Washington it was led by Ambassador and Mrs McKernan, Michael McNulty, Chief Executive, Bord Failte Eireann, with other Embassy staff and U.S. Protocol officers.

Most of the Taoiseach's time, on the first night, was taken up with completing the drafting of the speeches for delivery at the Embassy reception and at the lunch on Capitol Hill, next day.

The emphasis in his speeches and statements was on -

- (1) the need to alleviate the position of "illegal" immigrants from Ireland - estimated variously to number between 40,000 and 100,000;
- (2) encouraging tourism;
- (3) encouraging investment in Ireland;
- (4) clarifying Northern Ireland policy; and
- (5) emphasising Irish-American links.

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At approximately 6.30 a.m. on St. Patrick's Day, the Taoiseach with Messrs Nally and Mara and Ms Anderson from the Embassy left for the ABC studios for a live interview with the Taoiseach on "Good Morning America". Mr Morgan was also available. On return from the studios, a meeting was held, in the Taoiseach's room, at 9 a.m., to prepare for the meetings with the President and with the Friends of Ireland, on the Hill, later in the day. At approximately 10.15, the party left for St. Patrick's Cathedral, for a meeting with Archbishop Hickey, and celebration of High Mass for St. Patrick's Day.

The party left the Cathedral at approximately 11.30 a.m. for the Embassy, where a welcoming party met President Reagan, at 12.40 p.m. There was little opportunity at this point for raising substantive issues with the President. However, during the meetings the Taoiseach mentioned to him the subject of Irish "illegals" in the United States. The President seemed to accept his point and nodded to his Chief of Staff, Howard Baker, indicating that Baker was to take account of what was being said. Senator Ted Kennedy was also involved in this discussion, separately. The Taoiseach stressed that the real problem was with immigrants who had arrived after the present amnesty date in 1982. Senator Kennedy is Chairman of the Immigration Committee and has come in for a lot of criticism for the way in which the whole system is working. He is obviously trying to be helpful but explained why a further amnesty would be very difficult. Something short of this at technical level may be possible.

At the Embassy reception, or on the Hill, the Taoiseach also spoke to Secretary of State Schultz, Senator Dodd, Congressmen Foley, Boland, Donnelly, Speaker Wright, Chief of Staff Baker and others. His reception from everybody from the President down was "very friendly". The Taoiseach is most anxious that the forthcoming visit of the Friends of Ireland should be well organised. In his view it might run over two or three days and include 50-100 Senators and Congressmen. It might take the form of a seminar, with presentations being made by people here from the IDA, Bord Failte, the Universities, etc. on modern Ireland and subjects of concern to the country and to Irish American relations. He had suggested this format to Senators and Congressmen he had met, and had received a most favourable reaction. The Friends of Ireland would come on their own jet.

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All that would be needed, so far as we were concerned, would be that we should provide them with accommodation and meals, etc. On present expectations, approximately 50 of the Friends would participate. The Taoiseach would look to reports and definite conclusions emerging from the meeting. His main desire is to harness the great fund of good will for Ireland which exists in the States and pull it together for the benefit of both countries.

In short, the subjects which the Taoiseach would like to have followed up, with as much attention to detail and energy, as possible, are:-

- (1) the question of regularising the position of "illegal" Irish immigrants in the United States;
- (2) the organisation of the forthcoming trip of the Friends of Ireland, possibly about the end of May this year; and
- (3) facilitating Secretary of State Schultz who expressed a wish to see Vincent O'Brien's Ballydoyle stud.

In all, the visit seems to have gone reasonably well. More attention might have been paid, however, to Mrs Haughey's schedule; and this might be borne in mind for future similar occasions.

A copy of the speeches by the Taoiseach and by the President as well as of the statement issued by the Friends of Ireland is attached to this note, together with the typescript of the Taoiseach's television interview on "Good Morning America". The Government Press Secretary is getting copies of the video of the Taoiseach's television appearance in the morning, as well as of the speeches by the President and the Taoiseach at the Embassy, and of photographs taken on that occasion.



Dermot Nally

23 March 1987.