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# ROINN AN TAOISIGH

Uimhir.....

TO: Mr W. Kirwan,  
Assistant Secretary.

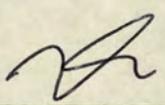
FROM: Brian McCarthy

RE: EEC Contribution to  
International Fund - Mr Nally's  
query of 17 December refers.

*Secretary to the Government.*  
*Should Foreign Affairs be encouraged to consider whether to take up with the British, in an exploratory way, the approach I advocate - assuming they will not go for the more direct approach?*

There is no uncertainty about payment of the last tranche (£35 million) of the US contribution to the Fund. A serious obstacle is perceived however to any contributions in the future, unless EEC support is forthcoming. When the original contribution was negotiated, it was hinted that the US assistance might range over a 5 year period. In the event, a three-year arrangement was arrived at involving a total contribution of £120 million. Our Embassy in Washington have a very clear indication from political contacts there that it would be unrealistic to expect further money unless the EEC contribution issue is resolved. It is worth noting that the Friends of Ireland wrote to the Danish Presidency in early November urging financial participation of the EEC in the Fund - a copy of this letter is attached for information.

*advocate - assuming they will not go for the more direct approach?*  
*hki*  
*13.12.87*

  
December, 1987.

*1. W. Kirwan (on leave) hki 13.1.87*

*2. W. McCarthy*

*In what channel and how vigorously are we now pursuing the case for a joint approach, with the British?*

*Shd. we I think that both approaches shd. be kept going in a hope that one of them will succeed. Bear in mind i/c Brussels European Council.*

*8/11*

Wright  
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 orary Vice-Chairman  
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Executive Committee

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**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**The Friends of Ireland**  
 Washington, D.C. 20515

Brian Donnelly  
 Chairman

November 2, 1987

His Excellency, Uffe Elleman-Jensen  
 Chairman, Council of Ministers of the European Communities  
 Brussels, Belgium 1048

Dear Chairman Elleman-Jensen:

The problem of violence and strife in Northern Ireland is well known to us all. The world has watched the death and destruction there over the last number of years with a feeling of helplessness, a sense that there was nothing positive that could be done to bring peace closer to hand.

In 1985, the governments of Ireland and the United Kingdom reached agreement on a framework within which there is potential for co-operation and development that may in time lead to peace. This settlement, the Anglo-Irish Accord, was welcomed and applauded by people all over the world. The European Communities joined in the praise of this agreement.

A key part of the Accord was the setting-up of the International Fund for Ireland. From this Fund monies would be allocated to projects with a cross-border or cross-community dimension, or to projects that involve social redevelopment. The Fund has at its disposal the sum of fifty-four million pounds sterling, made up of contributions from the United States, Canada and New Zealand.

The importance of the Fund is obvious. It has at its disposal an amount of money to direct at projects that might otherwise not receive any funding, or might fail on account of underfunding. Northern Ireland is an area of special concern to the European Communities. Grants are made available through the European Social and Regional Funds. However, the Communities have not taken the next logical step, the backing of the International Fund. The International Fund recognizes that community and economic redevelopment is an essential part of the political reconstruction of Northern Ireland. Its work has a political underpinning, the expectation of a peaceful, political solution to this problem.

H.E. Uffe Elleman-Jensen  
November 2, 1987

Page 2

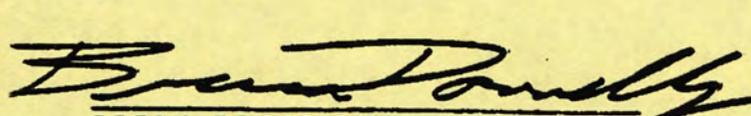
While the members of the Friends of Ireland in the U.S. House of Representatives appreciate the support given the Agreement to date by the European Communities, there is a need to develop the INTERNATIONAL dimension of the Fund. To be truly international in character the Fund must involve more than three donor-nations. The E.E.C. is needed as a donor to the Fund.

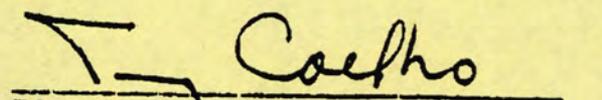
The Friends of Ireland look forward to the taking of action by the Communities on this question. The Northern Ireland conflict is a European problem. The European Communities share responsibility to assist in the endeavors of the Fund. There must be an European input into the resolution of the problem.

The Fund's credibility and effectiveness will be greatly enhanced by the participation of the Communities. We urge you to take this matter up at the next meeting of the Council of Ministers, where we are convinced that the idea will receive wide-spread support.

With warm regards

Sincerely,

	
<u>BRIAN DONNELLY</u>	<u>THOMAS S. FOLEY</u>
Chairman-Friends of Ireland	Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives	U.S. House of Representatives

  
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Majority Whip  
U.S. House of Representatives

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