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Seol aon fhreagra chun:-
(Address any reply to:-)

AN RÚNAÍ
(The Secretary)

faoin uimhir seo:-
(quoting:-)

CONFIDENTIAL

| March 1983

Mr. Jim Kirby
Department of Justice
72-76 St. Stephen's Green
Dublin 2

Dear Jim

You may be aware that my Minister intends to go to the United States this year around the time of St. Patrick's Day for about a week. While no details of the trip have yet been finalised, it is envisaged that the itinerary will include New York and Washington. Among the tentative ideas for the Minister's programme are the presentation of shamrock at the White House; meetings with the Secretary of State Shultz and Judge Clark of the National Security Agency; possible courtesy calls on Vice-President Bush and Secretary for the Treasury Regan; discussions with Speaker Tip O'Neill, Senator Kennedy and other members of the Friends of Ireland group; and, of course, various contacts with the press and the media.

I have been giving some thought to the question of the briefing material for the Minister's visit. I am conscious that the trip will take place against the background of significant advances made over the past year by organisations such as NORAID. The most striking examples that come immediately to mind are AOH President Roche's attendance as guest of honour at a NORAID dinner, NORAID's Treasurer, Michael Flannery and four others' acquittal on gun-running charges and his later nomination as Grand Marshal of the New York St. Patrick's Day Parade.

As the latter event will coincide with the Minister's visit, there is likely to be considerable media pressure on him to reject outright groups like NORAID and to try to woo moderate Irish-Americans back toward support for our position on Northern Ireland. The Minister is aware of this and has asked that comprehensive briefing material be prepared to allow him to spell out the Government opposition to NORAID and, where appropriate, back up his arguments with relevant factual information.

I would be grateful, therefore, if your Department would be in a position to supply material on the following areas which are likely to arise:-

AN ROINN GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA
Department of Foreign Affairs

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH, 2.
Dublin 2.

pl. pa. dwd 47/4
NI 47/4/5
NI 47/4/6
NI 2/5/2
NI 47/4/3/1
NI 59
NI 8/5/1/1
NI 8/4

(i) NORAIID

Any evidence of known contacts between NORAIID and the PIRA;
Details of trips by NORAIID people to Ireland and their contacts while in Ireland;

Evidence of links between NORAIID and other non-political organisations in Ireland.

(ii) Irish National Caucus

Details of known trips to Ireland by Caucus personnel and their contacts while in Ireland;

Any evidence of links between the Caucus and NORAIID or PIRA.

(iii) Green Cross/Cumann Cabhrach

Details of known amounts of money that have flowed to these groups from the US and estimates of current flows;

Any evidence that monies collected for these organisations was used for purposes other than prisoners' aid.

(iv) Gun running to NI from US

Statistics on the extent of the gunrunning problem;

Amounts of arms and explosives seized of US origin;

Amounts of arms and explosives seized that were smuggled from the US;

Examples of the practical cooperation between the Gardai and the US authorities to halt the flow of illegal arms.

(v) Irish People

Evidence of the link between it and An Phoblacht;

How are the articles in the latter sent to the Irish People?

(vi) Denton Hearings

In his meeting with the Secretary of State Shultz the Minister is likely to be asked about our attitude to the Hearings. Any evidence of links between the PIRA and other international terrorist groups such as the PLO would be useful. Another aspect that may be raised is any known details regarding the Marxist nature of the PIRA.

Any material supplied for the Minister's brief will, of course, be treated as strictly confidential.

Yours sincerely

M.H.

Margaret Hennessy