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TO: Participants in the Airlee House Conference on Northern Ireland.

FROM: Louise Richardson

DATE: 20 December 1984

SUBJECT: Logistical details for the conference.

*cc via. Lill is
A.I. Section
Mr B. MacLachlan
J. Iainach
L. Embassy Washington*

We are delighted that you will be able to attend the Airlee House Conference on Northern Ireland to take place on January 6 - 9 in Warrenton, Virginia.

Please find enclosed your airline ticket to the U.S. and a copy of your itinerary. Warrenton, Virginia is located 45 miles south of Washington, D.C. We have therefore made the following transportation arrangements for January 6th. Those of you who will be arriving on PA flight # 107 from London will be met at 1.40 p.m. in the Pan Am baggage claim area at Dulles airport. Those of you travelling on BA flight # 277 from London will be met at 5.55 p.m. at the British Airways baggage claim area at Dulles. Those travelling from Dublin will be met at 8.13 p.m. at the Pan Am ticket desk at National Airport. If you are travelling before January 6th you may meet at any of the above times and locations, alternatively you may go to the Eastern ticket desk at the main terminal of National Airport (which is located close to downtown Washington) at 4.00 p.m. on Sunday, January 6th. In each case look for the name RICHARDSON. You will be driven by coach from the airport to Warrenton which is about an hour's drive.

We will have an informal dinner for participants as they arrive on Sunday evening. The first session of the conference will begin on Monday morning. There will be three sessions on Monday, three on Tuesday, and two on Wednesday. The conference will end at 4.00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 9th. The agenda will be built around eight papers which have been commissioned by the committee. The papers are on the following topics: The Economics of Dependency; The Question of Consent; British Government Policy in Northern Ireland; Cross-Border Security Considerations; Identity and Aspirations: A Unionist Perspective; Identity and Aspirations: A Nationalist Perspective; Anglo-Irish Perceptions; Recently Published Documents. You will receive copies of the papers, supporting documents, and a detailed schedule of events on arrival at Airlee House.

There will be an audience of approximately fifty people attending the conference. A number of specially invited guests will also attend the evening dinners. The audience will consist of members of the American government, academic community and press. While all sessions of the conference will be off-the-record, arrangements can be made for on-the-record interviews, if that is desired.

Airlee House has all the amenities of a professional conference center. The telephone number there at which you can be reached during the conference is: 703-347-1300 (long distance) or 276-6554 (local).

If you have any difficulties with these arrangements please call Patricia Keefer at: 703-237-0600.

THE AIRLEE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON NORTHERN IRELAND

January 1985

CONFERENCE ON NORTHERN IRELAND

Introduction:

During the last ten years the Committee for an Irish Forum organized a number of conferences/symposia in Massachusetts which brought together parties to the political conflict in Northern Ireland to (a) engage in dialogue with each other in an environment free from the constraints of their own immediate political theatres and (b) to educate American, especially Irish-American opinion, in regard to all aspects of the situation.

The Committee for an Irish Forum organized the following:

- a) The Amherst Conference, August/September 1975
- b) The First Boston Symposium on Northern Ireland, March 1982
- c) The Second Boston Symposium on Northern Ireland, March 1984

When the March 1984 Symposium was over, the Committee continued to keep in touch with the various political parties who had been in attendance, including representatives of the Dublin and London governments, with a view to furthering its efforts in promoting dialogue among the constitutional political parties and educating select strata of American opinion. A copy of the proceedings of the Symposium's final session was forwarded to personnel in London, Dublin, and Belfast.

A number of developments since the March 1984 Symposium made the Committee's continued activities more pertinent: First in mid-April, the Official Unionist Party set out its position with regard to the form of internal devolution it would accommodate itself to in The Way Forward, and second in early May, the constitutional nationalist parties in both parts of Ireland set out their determination of the realities of the situation in Northern Ireland and the steps, which in their view, would have to be taken

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into account in order to resolve the conflict in The New Ireland Forum Report. Both documents were debated in the Westminster Parliament in early July, at which time the British government took the opportunity to set out its perceptions of the realities of the situation, and the guidelines it would use in attempting to bring about a settlement. In September, the Democratic Unionist Party put forward its own proposals in Northern Ireland: Ulster; the Future Assured, and in November, a Committee under the direction of Lord Kilbrandon issued its recommendations in the Report of an Independent Inquiry.

During this period the Committee had on-going discussions with the leaders of all the constitutional political parties or their designated representatives in the North of Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and Great Britain, and with representatives of both the Dublin and London governments with a view to having a follow-up conference in the United States that would address developments since the March Symposium, elaborate on some of the more basic issues raised during the final session of that Symposium, and continue to inform important strata of American public opinion.

As a result of these discussions the parties agreed to participate in an all-party conference on Northern Ireland scheduled to take place in the United States January 6-9, 1985, at Airlee House, Warrenton, Virginia. Both the British and Irish governments indicated their willingness to send ministerial representation provided certain conditions were met. These conditions were met to their satisfaction.

The conference will be open i.e. not private, i.e. a select audience (approximately fifty persons) will attend in order to preclude suggestions that negotiations are taking place. The conference, however, will not be open to the general public. The invited audience

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will be made up of influential American opinion-makers and members of the professional, academic, and public-sector communities. This audience will share the Airlee House accommodations and facilities with British and Irish participants for the three-day period in order to enhance the opportunities for informal as well as formal exchanges.

Co-Sponsors

The Committee for an Irish Forum gratefully acknowledges the assistance of its co-sponsors: The Appeal of Conscience Foundation, New York, New York, whose assistance has made the Conference possible, and the John W. McCormack Institute of Public Affairs, University of Massachusetts at Boston. The Committee also wishes to acknowledge the assistance of the Ireland Fund and the Joyce Foundation.

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Agenda:

The Committee has worked with the participants to establish an agreed-upon agenda. As a result of these discussions the Committee commissioned eight papers on the critical issues that all parties agree are pertinent and relevant to their concerns.

These papers are:

The Question of Consent
Professor Bernard Crick, Birkbeck College, University of London

British Government Policy in Northern Ireland
Bruce Arnold, Irish Independent

Cross- Border Security Considerations
Professor Kevin Boyle, University College, Galway
Dr. Tom Hadden, Queen's University, Belfast

The Economics of Dependency: Implications for the North and South
Professor Norman Gibson, New University of Ulster

Identity and Aspirations: A Unionist Perspective
Dr. A.T.Q. Stewart, Queen's University, Belfast

Identity and Aspirations: A Nationalist Perspective
Dr. Seamus Deane, University College, Dublin

Anglo-Irish Perceptions
Dr. John Bowman, RTE, Dublin

Recently Published Documents
Dr. Paul Arthur, Ulster Polytechnic

These papers, however, will not be formally delivered. Rather they will be distributed to participants and audience beforehand, and thus serve as starting points to focus discussions. They will form the core of the agenda but the agenda will not necessarily be limited to their terms of reference.

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The general format for discussion, subject to revision as the need may arise, will be as follows:

- a) The author of the paper under discussion will provide a short oral summary (no more than ten minutes).
- b) This will be followed by a panel discussion. Participants from each party will decide for themselves which panels they wish to be represented on.
- c) No party may have more than one representative on a given panel, and no panel will have more than eight members.
- d) After a brief opening statement by each panel participant, panelists will have an opportunity to question each other.
- e) The proceedings will then be opened up to the larger audience, first to other British and Irish participants and then to the invited U.S. audience.
- f) In all, there will be eight sessions, seven on the topics outlined (the two papers on Aspirations and Identity will be treated together) and a final "Wrap-up" session.
- g) Thus, there will be three sessions on Monday, January 7th, three sessions on Tuesday, January 8th, and two sessions on Wednesday, January 9th. (Exact details will appear on a separately prepared Schedule of Events.)
- h) If, at any given point, issues emerge in the course of the Conference that participants believe warrant further discussion, the agenda will be amended to make the necessary time available.
- i) Sessions will not be of equal length, i.e. more time will be spend on the Question of Consent, for example, than on the Economics of Dependency.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
(subject to revision)

Sunday, January 6, 1985

Arrivals Sunday afternoon and evening.
Cocktail reception for early arrivals and
sit-down dinner at 8:00 P.M. Buffet
supper for later arrivals.

Monday, January 7, 1985

8:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M.

Breakfast

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

"The Economics of Dependency" Y

12:00 P.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Lunch

1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

"British Government Policy in Northern
Ireland" Y

4:00 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Break

4:30 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

"Cross Border Security Considerations" X

7:15 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Cocktail Reception

8:00 P.M.

Dinner. Both the Irish and British
Ambassadors will attend. Address by
Rabbi Arthur Schneier, Appeal of
Conscience Foundation.

Tuesday, January 8, 1985

8:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M.

Breakfast

9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

"Identity and Aspirations" ✓

12:00 P.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Lunch

1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

"The Question of Consent" ✓

4:00 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Break

4:30 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

"Recently Published Documents" ✓

7:15 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Cocktail Reception

8:00 P.M.

Dinner

THE COMMITTEE FOR

HISTORY

The Boston Irish Symposium Committee was organized in 1975 for the purpose of educating Americans with regard to all aspects of the history of Ireland, and in particular of the crucial need for constitutional reform and of resolving the conflict.

In March 1982 a two-day symposium was held at the John F. Kennedy Library with panels on history; economic and community co-operation; the role of the media; and the nature of Irish identity. Politicians who participated included Hon. John Hume M.E.P., and the Hon. Harold McCusker M.P. The symposium was attended by over 350 people.

In January 1984, the 1982 Symposium Committee merged with the Committee for an Irish Forum which sponsored the 1975 Amherst Conference on Ireland. This Conference, which was not open to the public, brought together 50 people from Ireland, North and South, who were party to all sides of the conflict.

Padraig O'Malley, who was the chief organizer of the Amherst Conference, is now President of the Committee for an Irish Forum, and Catherine Shannon, who was the co-ordinator of the 1982 Symposium at the Kennedy Library, are the co-chairs of the newly re-organized Committee for an Irish Forum that sponsored the Second Boston Symposium on Northern Ireland.

The other members of the Committee are: Bruce Logan, Treasurer; Michael Donlon, Counsel; Ruth Ann Harris, Correspondence Secretary; Benjamin and Ann Mariante, Recording Secretaries; William Johnson, Liaison, Kennedy Library; Richard Finnegan; Bryan Hamlin; Patricia Keefer; Catherine Kennedy; Michael Kennedy; Don McCallion; Kevin O'Neill; Frank O'Rourke; Ray Raymond; Louise Richardson; Therese Ryan Ryder; and Margaret Sydes.

The members of the Committee's Advisory Board are: Edmund Beard, Director, John W. McCormack Institute of Public Affairs, UMass/Boston; Sydney Burrell, Boston University; Robert Corrigan, Chancellor, University of Massachusetts at Boston; Dan Fenn, Director, John F. Kennedy Library; Rev. Bartley MacPhaidin, President, Stonehill College; and William V. Shannon, former U.S. Ambassador to Ireland and currently University Professor at Boston University.

The Committee particularly wants to acknowledge the help of The Ireland Fund in making the Boston Symposium possible.

For information on the Committee write or phone:

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