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TO: HQ *u.d't 8/9* FROM: CGNY
FOR: ~~ORLA O'HANRAHAN~~ FROM: JAMES HENNESSY
ANGLO-IRISH

DATE: 7 SEPTEMBER, 1995

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

C.C. EMBASSY



Friends Of Sinn Féin



Profile of Martin McGuinness Sinn Fein's Chief Negotiator with the British Government

Martin McGuinness is the leader of the Sinn Fein delegation which, over the last nine months, has met with British minister Michael Ancram on several occasions at Stormont. More recently he has had private meetings with Patrick Mayhew as part of Sinn Fein's attempts to persuade the British government to move beyond the impasse which has been created by its refusal to move towards all-party peace talks.

Martin is also a member of Sinn Fein's delegation to the Dublin Forum for Peace and Reconciliation.

Martin McGuinness is 45 years old. He was born into a Nationalist family and is the second eldest of seven children (six boys and one girl). Martin was educated by the Christian Brothers and left school at the age of fifteen.

Martin became involved in the Civil Rights Movement in Derry on October 5th 1968 and joined Sinn Fein in 1970. He married his wife Bernie just after internment had been introduced in 1972 and they have four children.

In late 1972, Martin was convicted on the word of a Garda Chief Superintendent of IRA membership. He served 6 months in military custody in the Curragh prison. In February 1974, he was again convicted of membership under the same circumstances and was sentenced to 1 year in Portlaoise prison. He was released in November 1974.

In 1983 Martin McGuinness was elected to the short-lived Stormont assembly. Later that year he was excluded from entering Britain under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Since Martin was elected to the Ard Comhairle of Sinn Fein (National Executive) he played a major role in promoting and supporting the strategy of the current peace process.

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Martin was a leading representative in the 1972 talks with the then British Secretary of State William Whitelaw in London and more recently was engaged in protracted secret discussions with British officials from 1990 until 1993. All of these meetings are documented in the Sinn Fein booklet "Setting the Record Straight".



Friends Of Sinn Féin



Press Release

Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator with the British government and key figure in the Irish Peace Process, will arrive for the first time in the United States on Tuesday, September 5th at Kennedy International Airport.

A press conference will be held at 3pm in the International Press Room at Kennedy Airport. Mr. McGuinness will be traveling in the United States through Sunday, September 10th.

During his visits to New York City, Boston, Hartford and Philadelphia, he will address a variety of community, business and academic groups concerned with the Peace Process in Ireland. He will also be raising funds in support of the ongoing effort to attain peace in Ireland.

Ard Comhairle member Martin McGuinness is one of the most influential opinion makers within Sinn Fein and a key advocate over many years of the party's strategy for bringing about a permanent peace in Ireland.

Martin McGuinness is the leader of the Sinn Fein delegation which, over the last nine months, has met with British minister Michael Ancram on several occasions at Stormont. More recently he has had private meetings with Patrick Mayhew as part of Sinn Fein's attempts to persuade the British government to move beyond the impasse which has been created by its refusal to move towards all-party peace talks.

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The IRA's historic and courageous decision on August 31, 1994 to call "a complete cessation of military operations" was influenced by the political assessment of the Sinn Fein leadership of which McGuinness is a long-standing member.

Like many senior Sinn Fein members Martin McGuinness has been subjected to a vicious propaganda campaign primarily orchestrated by the British government. However McGuinness, a father of three from the nationalist Bogside area of Derry City, is the opposite of the tabloid caricature. Soft-spoken, good-humored and unpretentious, Martin McGuinness has earned the respect of republicans and political adversaries alike for his political integrity and vision.

Since 1987 Martin McGuinness has been centrally involved in the evolution of the peace process. He was a contributor to the Sinn Fein discussion documents *Scenario For Peace* (1987) and the more considered *Towards a Lasting Peace in Ireland* (1992) which outline Sinn Fein's analysis of the conflict and suggested methods on how to resolve it. He has also stood in several elections as the Sinn Fein candidate and was one of the primary advocates of Sinn Fein's electoral intervention policy developed in the aftermath of the 1981 H-Block prison hungerstrikes.

Between 1990-1993 however the British reactivated the dialogue and Martin McGuinness was the senior Sinn Fein contact. At all times McGuinness was the senior Sinn Fein contact. At all times McGuinness pointed the British to the discussions taking place between the Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams and SDLP leader John Hume, the Irish Peace initiative, as containing the best potential for moving towards a lasting resolution of the conflict.

Please see attached itinerary for further details.

For more information, contact Shannon Eaton (212) 227-5522
(617) 492-5998



Friends Of Sinn Féin



MARTIN McGUINNESS ITINERARY

Tuesday September 5 NYC & Boston

Arrive Kennedy Airport at 2:30 PM
Aer Lingus Flight 105

3:00PM Press Conference at Kennedy Airport International Press Room

BOSTON

6:52PM Arrive Logan International airport
Delta flight 1866

7:30PM Community Event in Support of the Irish Peace Process
Marriot Hotel, Long Wharf, Atlantic Ave., Boston

Wednesday September 6 Boston & NYC

8:00- England Circle Breakfast. Press Room. Mezzanine.
10:00AM Omni Parker House.
Sponsored by: Boston College

12:00- Irish American Partnership Lunch
2:00PM Harvard Club
1 Federal Street, Shamut Bank Building,
33 Broad Street
Boston

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NEW YORK

5:40 PM Arrive Kennedy International Airport New York
Delta Flight 285

7:30 PM Columbia University
The Institute on Western Europe &
The Irish Cultural Association of
Columbia Law School
"Northern Ireland: The Peace Process -
One Year On"
Moderator: Prof. Jack Greenberg
Altschul Auditorium
420 W. 118th St. Amsterdam Ave

Thursday September 7 NYC

11:00-12:00 UN Correspondents Press Association
UN Secretariat 3rd floor

4:00-5:45PM Council on Foreign Relations
58 East 68th Street

6:00-8:00 PM Plaza Hotel Central Park South
Evening in Support of the Irish Peace Process
Sponsored by: Friends of Sinn Fein
\$100:00 per person.

Master of Ceremonies : Pete Hamill

Co Hosts

John T. Sharkey : Vice President of MCI Communications Corp.

Patricia Harty : Editor in Chief Irish America Magazine

Frank Durkan : O'Dwyer & Bernstien

Paul Hill

Courtney Kennedy Hill

Danny Maloney : Pres. Liffey Movers

Gary Dawes : Pres. Campbell & Dawes Ltd.

Friday September 8 NYC**9:00 AM -6:PM Private Meetings - Media Interviews.**

9:00 PM Towerview Ballroom, Roosevelt Ave, Queens,
Community Event in support of the Irish Peace Process

Saturday September 9 NYC & Hartford CT.

11:00 AM- 5PM Private meetings Media Interviews

Hartford CT

8:00 PM Community Event in support of the Irish Peace Process
Elks Hall, 34 Prospect Street, Downtown Hartford

Sunday September 10 Philadelphia

12:30 Community Event in support of the Irish Peace Process
Irish Center, Carpenters Lane and Emlem Street

6:50 PM Departs Kennedy International Airport for Ireland.



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TO: HQ
FROM: CGNY
FOR: OBLA O'HANRAHAN
ANGLO IRISH
FROM: JAMES HENNESSY
DATE: 7 SEPTEMBER, 1995
RE: VISIT OF MARTIN MCGUINNESS TO NEW YORK

Mr. McGuinness delivered a lecture at Columbia University last night. The hosts were the Institute on Western Europe and the Irish Cultural Association of Columbia Law School. I will forward separately material on his itinerary prepared by Friends of Sinn Fein. It was given to me by Professor Fionnuala Ni Aolain who follows human rights issues in Ireland. The moderator for the evening was Professor Jack Greenberg. The attendance was about 200 people.

McGuinness said the insistence by the British

Government on an actual surrender or decommissioning of some weapons before Sinn Fein could join all party talks was "unrealistic and absolutely unachievable". Even a symbolic surrender or decommissioning was impossible. In conflict resolution there is no room for concepts such as victory, defeat or surrender. The IRA stance of not even a symbolic surrender sounds hard but had to be seen in the context of IRA restraint over the last 13 months.

Up to last Monday's meeting, Sinn Fein had an impression that a Commission could look at the reasons why arms existed in a society in parallel to a move towards all party talks.

Sinn Fein had told the British Government that in an overall settlement the arms issue could be resolved in an hour. McGuinness quoted General Farrar Hockley as saying that decommissioning would be acceptable five seconds before the ink is dry on the agreement. Sinn Fein have always maintained that verification would be straightforward in the context of an overall agreement.

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He repeatedly castigated the British Government for their inflexibility and for making demands now which were not raised in negotiations which lead to the ceasefire. If the IRA were to make even a token surrender of arms, they would be accepting responsibility for all the wrongs over the last 25 years. This did not accord with reality. The British Army had killed "hundreds and hundreds on the streets of Northern Ireland". He accused the British Government of bad faith in the current negotiations.

Cancellation of Summit

McGuinness described this as a very serious crisis. He placed the blame on the British Government for this. Mr. McGuinness said that the Taoiseach, Mr. John Bruton, T.D., has had the ability to bring all sides on the nationalist side together without pre-conditions.

Role of President Clinton

President Clinton has played a tremendous role in moving the process forward. It is essential to increase pressure on the British Government to name a date for talks. The President feels that the weapons issue can be easily dealt with in the context of all party peace talks. The President is on record as saying he expects these will be underway by the time he visits Ireland later this year.

McGuinness said Sinn Fein leaders had put their necks on the line. They had told their side that the guarantees of well disposed people would be enough to bring the British Government around. If we keep up our efforts the British will loose face internationally and consider a move forward.

If we fail to negotiate, the history of Ireland shows that the conflict will repeat itself. This is perceived by the British as a threat, but it is simply a fact of Irish history.

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Future Prospects

McGuinness said progress was still possible. In other conflicts, South Africa, Middle East, Central and South America agreements were only reached when all parties sat around the table.

Britain must put pressure on Unionist leaders to join in talks. It is necessary to name a date to create a dynamic. McGuinness expects the Unionists to boycott talks initially but they will eventually join in. Up to now, Unionists leaders feared for their personal safety. McGuinness has seen interesting developments in the Protestant working class over the last 15 months. Even Loyalists death squads believe it is now time for all party peace talks.

This should make it easier for mainstream Unionist leadership and he hopes the new Unionist leader will be a pragmatist and lead his people into all party talks. The business community as well as the working class have moved well ahead of their political leaders in the North. Sinn Fein realise that all sides will have to compromise in talks but they will not do so before they get to the table.

While Sinn Fein do not trust the British Government, opinion polls show that Unionists trust London even less. Unionists believe that eventually the British will sell them out.

Question and Answer

Following was added during the Q & A. McGuinness wondered if the British Government were trying to divide and conquer the nationalist side. He acknowledged that John Major needs the votes of 9 Unionist MP's at Westminster. He felt while London is hiding behind the Unionists, the Labour Party were hiding behind the Tories. McGuinness noted some of the worst Secretaries for Northern Ireland have been Labour, in particular Ray Mason.

The British people may need a Labour Government but he is not sure if Sinn Fein does. Mr. Blair has refused to meet SF and is most uncomfortable on the issue of Ireland.

c.c. Embassy

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