

DCG

VC3

cc Mr Haire

Mr Taggart

Mrs Campbell

Mrs Rodgers

File

was signed → H.
 we have seen faxed
 copy given already
 to destroy and
 R 3.3

16 February 1994

c.c. Mr Jonatham Powell
 Washington
 Mr Graham Archer
 RID, FCO, London
 Mr Mark Pellew
 NAD, FCO, London
 Mr Jonathan Margetts
 SIL, NIO, London
 ✓ Ms Georgina Campbell
 DED, Belfast

SENATE PRESIDENT WILLIAM BULGER

1. On 16 February I had breakfast with the Senate President, William Bulger. In addition to briefing him on the present situation in Northern Ireland, the Joint Declaration, talks process, etc., we also covered the following.

MacBride

2. I told the Senate President that on my return to Boston I was disappointed to find that the MacBride Bill sponsored by Byron Rushing, which concentrates on contract compliance, had been passed by the Senate. It had not however come into effect as the Governor had returned the Bill to the Senate to consider some amendments. The Bill had run out of time, but Byron Rushing had now reintroduced it and it was now in the House Ways and Means Committee.

3. I told him that we had heard that the Bill had been rushed through the House on his instructions. He denied this, but he said that a member of his Office may well have called for the Bill thinking that he would want it passed in the last session. He added that the last few days of the session were always very busy; he did not have time to read every Bill, and if he had been told that the Bill would not be a problem to investment, he would have let it through.

4. I explained to the Senate President that despite what Byron Rushing and Senator Marian Walsh may have told him, the MacBride Principles are a disincentive to investment. Having been a businessman myself, given the choice of two countries to invest in and all other things being equal, I would invest in the country which gave me the least hassle in the way of regulations

etc. The Bill would affect the Boston-based O'Connell Brothers who were carrying out a construction project in Londonderry, as well as companies such as Rank Xerox, Ford, etc. I added that I was also surprised at the timing of the Bill when we were all trying to pull in the same direction to achieve a peaceful solution in Northern Ireland. He said that he had not appreciated the effect that the Bill would have on people such as the O'Connell Brothers. But he had difficulty in stopping it, in that it comes under the heading of a Civil Rights Bill which is automatically passed through. He would be more comfortable if the Bill died in the House Ways and Means Committee, or is amended so that its sting is withdrawn.

5. I told the Senate President that VC3 had presented written testimony to the Public Service Committee chaired by Byron Rushing, the supporter of the Bill, and that VC3 had also met with him yesterday. It was clear from her meeting that although Bryon Rushing may be amenable to amending parts of the Bill, this may not be enough. He was intent on trying to push it through. I added that VC3 would also try to meet with Senator Marian Walsh. Bulger said that this would be useful as Marian Walsh was one of his strongest supporters. He would also discuss the Bill with her. In addition he said that he could arrange for me to meet with Tom Finneran, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, to put our case. I said that it would be more appropriate for VC3 to do so, as she is our registered lobbyist. He agreed, and said that he would arrange to be present at the meeting. I should be grateful if VC3 would now contact the Senate President's office to confirm the arrangements for the meeting.

Ambassador Flynn

6. The Senate President thought that Ray Flynn would only run for Governor if President Clinton assured him that there would be a job in the US Administration for him if he failed. The President may well do so as the prospect of Flynn, "the street fighter", giving Governor Weld a hard time could be attractive to him. He added that Flynn will certainly get the Democratic nomination, but that he will not win against Weld.

Gerry Adams

7. I made the point that it was deeds not words that we are looking for from Sinn Fein. Although Adams talked of peace, he was not prepared to condemn or renounce violence. The Senate President said that he personally had been disappointed that Adams had not condemned IRA violence during his visit. He knows

1994 17:04

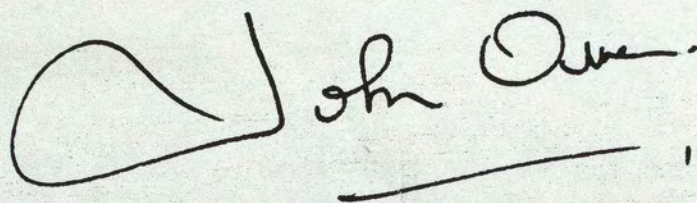
BRITISH CONSULATE

RECEIVED FROM 202 89

that others who had supported a visa for Adams felt the same. Given another twenty-four hours the US press would have started pulling him to pieces. He added that he was also concerned that John Hume was eclipsed by the media attention given to Adams.

Possible Visit of Sir Patrick Mayhew

8. I told the Senate President that during the course of this year, Sir Patrick Mayhew may return to Boston for a short visit. He welcomed this. I asked whether, if the timing was right, there could be an opportunity for the Secretary of State to address the Senate. He thought that this could be done, providing the dates were right. I said that I would keep in touch with him.



John Owen