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EMBASSY OF IRELAND

2234 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008

5 July 1995

PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO IRELAND

Dear Secretary

1. This is just to confirm the Embassy's oral reports to the Department today on the above.
2. Nancy Soderberg telephoned around lunch time to say that President Clinton had had a brief telephone discussion with the British Prime Minister on Wednesday evening to congratulate him on successfully retaining the Tory party leadership. In thanking the President for the call, Mr Major said that he could now, in the light of the leadership ballot outcome, confirm that the November/December dates for the President's visit to London and Belfast were acceptable.
3. Ms Soderberg went on to say that the White House hoped to issue a statement announcing the visit and the dates some time today. However, the White House subsequently telephoned to say that an announcement would now probably be made on Friday, as the publicity surrounding the Major re-election and the British cabinet reshuffle might well take away from the impact of any statement issued before then.
4. The precise details of the visit have yet to be worked out. However, the initial thinking in the White House is that the President would arrive in London on the evening of Wednesday, 29th November. He would stay Wednesday and Thursday nights in London, with Thursday being taken up with meetings with the Prime

Minister, the Leader of the Labour Party, etc.

- 5. The President would fly to Belfast early on Friday morning, and travel down to Dublin later in the day. If the Taoiseach were agreeable, the White House feel that Friday evening would be suitable time to host a dinner for the President. The Saturday could be set aside for meetings and, if this were possible, the President would also like to address a Joint Session of the Dáil and Seanad. Finally, the present thinking is that Mr Clinton would return to Washington late on Saturday evening.

- 6. It goes without saying that, in discussing the detailed arrangements with the White House - as I hope to do tomorrow - I will have a particular eye to the balance between the visits to London and Dublin, including the fact that, as I understand it at this stage, the Prime Minister will be accompanying the President on his visit to Belfast. I will, of course, keep you fully informed of developments.

Yours sincerely

Dermot Gallagher
Ambassador

Seán O hUiginn Uas
Secretary
Anglo-Irish Division
Department of Foreign Affairs

Note: I spoke to Amb Gallagher and also Amb Kennedy-Smith here to urge the fullest possible visit to this jurisdiction. The President has to be in US for an award ceremony on Sunday pm. but a Sunday departure (about lunchtime Irish time) might be possible.

OK
6/7