262/93 Ms Mergely 107/6 104 10 N 1993 CONFIDENTIAL 17 P N BELL, AUS(L) FROM: 3 June 1993 PS/Mr Fell D CC Mr Archer, RID Mr Thomas Mr Watkins - 4 JUN 1993 Mr Williams Mr Cooke C.C.R.U. Mr Dodds, ESL Mr Maxwell Mr Caine HMA, Dublin

VISITS BY IRISH PRESIDENT AND TAOISEACH TO NORTHERN IRELAND

I am grateful for the suggestions in your minute to me of 28 May. My own off the cuff answer to the question you pose would be for the Ambassador to say something like "we believe that it would be helpful if visits by eg President Robinson and the Taoiseach were not confined to primarily nationalist areas, (for the reasons rehearsed in this correspondence) tactfully expressed but could be balanced, from time to time, by visits to areas mainly representing the other traditions, as well as of course by visits to genuine 'mixed' institutions or areas. If you would like a few ideas as to where or what these might be, we should be glad to make a few suggestions of our own. We believe that the dividends, for both sides, in demonstrating that the most senior figures from the Republic were genuinely interested in all sections of the community in Northern Ireland would be considerable".

2. If everyone agrees, the Central Secretariat might perhaps want to think of one or two places which the President or Mr Reynolds might most usefully visit (and, if our fish bite, help to stimulate an invitation perhaps).

(Signed PNB)

P N BELL OAB 6469

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4 Dr. Queros and the sugestions

PS. Since dictating this, I have seen the Ambassador's minute to you of 31/5. There is unanimity in the Courts of heaven.

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