

cc Mr. McDermott

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For info

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FROM: M T H MAXWELL
CENT SEC

DATE: 31 MARCH 1995

cc Mr Loughran, DED
Mr Hamilton, DOE
Mr Watkins - B
Mr Williams - B
Mr Gibson, DED
Mr Cowan, DOE
Mr Hamilton, DED
Mr Wood (B&L) - B
Mr Bell - B
Mr Bramley - B
Mr Ross, IDB
Mrs Brown, DOE
Mr Margetts - B
Mr McAleer
Mr Burrowes, DED
Mrs McAuley
Mr Alexander, NIB
Mr Westmacott, British Embassy,
Washington
Ms McIver, NIB

(Without Attachments)

TO: PS/MR FELL

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN IRELAND:
WASHINGTON 24-26 MAY

1. Mr Ross (IDB), Mr McAleer (Information Service) and I visited Washington on 26-28 March to discuss with Irish and US officials arrangements for the forthcoming White House Conference for Trade and Investment in Ireland.
2. The main meetings held were with Irish officials, officials of the US Department of Commerce and with Ms Martha Pope and Mr David Pozorski (Senator Mitchell's staff). We also had an opportunity to "walk the ground".
3. Ms McIver's detailed notes of the meetings with the US Department of Commerce and with the Irish are attached. Mr McAleer and Mr Ross will also be producing detailed notes from their respective positions. The following are the main points of interest from an overall co-ordination perspective.

JG.16252

Overall Organisation

4. As Dr Hayes has already commented to PUS the Americans have a long way to go to put this Conference in shape. Basic information such as room allocation in the hotel was not available. There are a number of other events/exhibitions taking place at the same time (eg a Conference of Black Baptists): the American organisers were made aware of this by someone contracted by me to determine exhibition space availability. There was a general feeling of a rather laid back and haphazard approach to the event, although given that the President is to attend I feel reasonably sure that the Americans will eventually get their act together.

Programme

5. The draft programme is attached. It consists of a reception/dinner on Wednesday evening, a breakfast session on Thursday followed by the plenary at which the President and his senior political colleagues will speak. The Secretary of State and the Tanaiste will be invited to address the lunch which follows. Thursday afternoon is taken up with 5 break-out sessions which run concurrently for about 2 hours (business partnerships, food industries, software development, tourism and community development). There follows some free time, and there is a Presidential reception on the White House lawn on Thursday evening. A further breakfast session will be held on Friday morning, followed by 4 break-out sessions (business partnerships, services, manufacturing and (fair) employment). The conference ends about Friday lunchtime.

Invitations

6. The Americans are planning for 1,000 delegates, including about 350 US CEOs. The remainder of the invitations will be broadly split between the North and South, although there is some suggestion that about 150 invitations will be kept back to satisfy latecomers (most likely to be US politicians). In terms

of invitations the US organisers are sensitive to the "six and six" although they are under considerable pressure from the Irish and others to turn this into a 32 county conference. So far they have resisted. Invitations should issue in about a fortnight's time. Although the US authorities are resistant to the idea, I will seek to obtain a copy of the delegate lists. Sinn Fein will be represented. Mr Adams will be invited, as will Father Des Wilson of Conway Mill (see below).

Accommodation

7. The situation here is pretty unsatisfactory in that the Americans do not seem to know yet which parts of the hotel are booked for the Conference (they have sub-contracted this part of the organisation to a sub-contractor BCIU who seems to be keeping this information to himself). We took the opportunity while in Washington to book a number of rooms provisionally for senior officials/Board members in the Sheraton hotel. We also sought to book space for Private Office/Press Office etc, although the exact location of these rooms has not yet been finalised.

Exhibition Space

8. The position here is very unclear. The original exhibition space booked by the contractor was totally unsatisfactory, and at our prompting the Americans have changed their minds on this. We await further information, although both the Irish and ourselves have set in hand, through the two Tourist Boards and the other Government agencies, some preliminary work on exhibition stands. I will report further.

Publicity Material

9. Information Service, IDB, T&EA, Tourist Board, and Central Secretariat will all have publicity material in one form or another, and we will seek to package this in the most professional way possible. The Americans will have their own conference publicity material.

Community Development Break-Out Session

10. The proposed speakers at this session are at present:

J Redpath
G McAteer
D O'Hare
B O'Neill (Chamberlink)
Dr M Hayes
D Pollick (Castlederg)
Elizabeth Shannon (Moderator).

We still have a little time to input our final thoughts on this, and I will be speaking to Mr Cowan (DOE) and Mr Gibson (DED). Baroness Denton and Lady Mayhew will also have an interest. We will also seek to clear the list of community representatives with Baroness Denton although the Americans have been loathe to hand over the complete list (see below).

Employment Break-Out Session

11. The proposed speakers at this session are at present:

I McCormick
R McNulty (although this may change)
R Cooper
C Hill
Cardinal Daly
Dr Dunlop
T Donohue (Moderator).

DED have provided advice to Baroness Denton on this session and a meeting is to be arranged.

JG.16252

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ground Economic Paper

- .. The Americans are preparing a background economic paper on the economies of NI/Border Counties which they will distribute at the Conference. The US Department of Commerce (Mr McLoughlin) is responsible for putting this together, although they have sought a substantial input from us.

Co-Operation with the Irish

13. The Irish are intent to make this Conference as "joint" as possible, and the Americans will do likewise. I have already pointed to the difficulties of this, particularly given that there will be a large number of Unionist Councillors present. We will need to keep a close eye on this.
14. In this context one issue on which I would welcome Mr Fell's thoughts is the reception on Wednesday night (preceding the dinner to be hosted by Senator Mitchell). The Irish would like the two Governments to host this reception: I reserved our position on the grounds that the Sinn Fein issue is not yet resolved, although hopefully it will be by Conference time. I suggested an IFI reception as an alternative. I would welcome Mr Fell's comments.

Peripheral Events

15. The Irish informed us that Riverdance is out, although there may well be some alternative events. We may have an opportunity to put in some of our own suggestions.

Logistics

16. There are numerous logistical details to be worked out with the Americans and the Irish which we will be getting down to over the coming weeks.

sterial Programmes

- . We had a brief discussion with the Embassy (Mr Westmacott) about responsibility for Ministers while they are in Washington. SIL, Central Secretariat and the Embassy will laise fully on programmes for Ministers while they are attending the Conference.

Political Overtones

18. This will be a difficult Conference politically as Mr Bramley's draft paper has already brought out. Given the presence of politicians of both persuasions, in an external environment, the handling of events from a political perspective will require careful thought.

Meeting with Martha Pope and David Pozorski

19. Mr Ross, Mr Alexander and I met separately with Martha Pope and David Pozorski (Senator Mitchell's staff) on Tuesday 28 March. The conversation largely centred on the community development and (fair) employment break-out sessions. Ms Pope was not willing to hand over formally her list of community development invitees (although we know that the Americans will invite about 39 including Father Des Wilson of Conway Mill and other community representatives who are close to the paramilitary organisations). I hope to obtain a copy of the list by other means. Ms Pope identified some speakers for the (fair) employment session: I advised her that we would have to clear the list of speakers of both break-out sessions with our Ministers. We also discussed how IFI was to fit in with the Conference. Mr Jim Lyons (US observer) was down to chair one of the investment break-out sessions, but no-one on our side was very keen on this idea.

JG.16252

Ms Pope will be in Northern Ireland on 10 April; Mr Martinez will organise her programme. She will be speaking at the Institute of Directors, and I am seeking to have her invited to the Secretary of State's dinner for President Santer.

21. I will be providing regular (at least weekly) reports to Mr Fell on the Conference. A further monthly report will issue to Ministers before the Monday Ministerial meeting; then weekly reports to them will begin week commencing 10 April.

[Signed: MTHM]

M T H MAXWELL

JG.16252

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN IRELAND
24-26 MAY 1995

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Wednesday, 24 May

12.00 noon - 8.00 pm	Registration
7.00 pm - 8.00 pm	Reception?
8.00 pm - 10.00 pm	Dinner Welcome Address Senator George J Mitchell Keynote: US CEO

Thursday, 25 May

7.00 pm - 7.45 am	Registration
7.45 am - 9.15 am	Breakfast Speakers: Four US CEOs
9.15 am - 10.00 am	Break
10.00 am - 10.45 am	Opening Session Senator Mitchell Secretary Brown Secretary Christopher
11.00 am - 12.00 noon	President Clinton
12.00 noon - 12.30 pm	Break

JG.16252

1.0 pm	-	2.00 pm	Lunch
			Introductions Ambassadors Crowe and Smith
			Speakers: Sir Patrick Mayhew Dick Spring
2.00 pm	-	2.30 pm	Break
2.30 pm	-	4.30 pm	Break-out Sessions:
			- Doing Business in Northern Ireland and the Border Counties
			- Tourism
			- Food Industries
			- Information Technology
			- Community Development
4.30 pm	-	7.00 pm	Break
7.00 pm	-	9.00 pm	White House Reception

Friday, 26 May

8.00 am	-	9.30 pm	Breakfast
			Speakers: Monika Wulf-Mathies Baroness Denton Richard Bruton
9.30 am	-	10.00 am	Break

JG.16252

10 am - 12.00 noon

Break-out Sessions:

- Doing Business in Northern Ireland
and the border Counties
- Manufacturing
- Tradeable Services
- Employment

12.00 noon - 12.30 pm

Break

12.30 pm - 2.00 pm
2.00 pm

Buffet Lunch, exhibition area
Exhibits close

JG.16252