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POL. 12.2

May 30. 1989.

Mr. Dermot Gallagher  
Assistant Secretary  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
Dublin.

Lunch with Rudolph Giuliani

Dear Assistant Secretary,

I had lunch on Friday, May 26, with Rudolph Giuliani who is the leading republican contender for Mayor of the City of New York. He is of Italian Catholic background brought up in the Bronx. He is in his mid 40's. He retired as U.S. Attorney Southern District of New York (Federal Prosecutor) to enter the contest for Mayor. As DA he concentrated on widely publicised cases against the Mafia and some senior political figures. He had previously held a senior position in the Justice Department in Washington where, among his other duties, he had responsibility for Interpol.

Giuliani is going forward on a republican and liberal party ticket, as did the last republican mayor of New York John Lindsay. (In addition to the two major parties - republican and democrat - there are two small parties in New York - liberal and conservative). In securing the liberal ticket he hopes to attract democrats dissatisfied with Koch. His main platform is that there is need for a change in New York to deal with drugs, aids and what is widely perceived as a breakdown of society. He is very strong on law and order and supports the reintroduction of the death penalty in New York.

His rival in the republican primary, which takes place on September 12, will be Ronald Lauder, the heir to the Estee Lauder empire. Lauder is backed by the most influential republican in the State of New York, Senator Alfonse D'Amato. It is widely believed that D'Amato wishes to run for Governor against Cuomo and that he would prefer a democratic mayor in New York rather than Giuliani who if he became Mayor might

distract from D'Amato's pre-eminent role. Lauder, who has the backing of the conservative party has no hope of winning. If Lauder, following his anticipated defeat in the primary, remains in the race as a conservative candidate he could damage Giuliani by taking republican votes from him. Giuliani's main political supporter is republican Congressman for Staten Island Guy Molinari.

To win the November election Giuliani will need the support of Italian Catholics. This he should attain in spite of his record in prosecuting prominent mobster members of that community. The reason for this is that most New York Italian Catholics are republican and it is thought that even those who are democrats would prefer to support an Italian Catholic rather than a Jew or a black. Giuliani also needs support from the liberal Jews. This he could attain depending on his democratic opponent. If Koch wins the democratic primary some of his erstwhile liberal supporters might go to Giuliani because of the latter's endorsement by the liberal party. If Dinkins, black Manhattan Borough President, wins the primary a large segment of the Jewish vote would go to Giuliani. However, if Ravitch emerges as the democratic candidate, and his star has been improved by his recent endorsement by the Queens democratic leader Congressman Manton, Giuliani could be in trouble. Ravitch has the same appeal as Giuliani - a new and clean face - but has the advantage over Giuliani - of being a democrat and a Jew. If Dinkins wins the democratic nomination, and that is a possibility, Giuliani will almost certainly win the mayoral race because of the racial tension in New York at present.

There is, however, a long way to go. Giuliani has shown a certain ineptitude since declaring his candidacy. He has suffered in the media because the law firm for which he now works represents the Panamanian Government. He failed to turn up at the Irish Forum organised by John Dearie in the Bronx and was the only mayoral candidate not to put in an appearance. Likewise he did not appear at the mayoral candidates breakfast of the United Jewish Appeal. His problem is that except for one or two like Molinari his closest advisers, whatever their intrinsic capabilities, have little or no experience of politics. On the other hand Giuliani is very intelligent and a very good listener and he is learning as the campaign goes on.

We had a long discussion over lunch about Northern Ireland and the Government's policies. Giuliani does not know very much about Ireland. He expressed himself in favour of Irish unity and said that he favoured the withdrawal of British troops from Northern Ireland. He gave as reason for his views his own background of growing up in an Italian/Irish neighbourhood in the Bronx. His college was Manhattan College which was then very Irish oriented.

His office had some two weeks previously explained his position on Joe Doherty stating he favoured the return of Doherty to the United Kingdom but that he wanted Doherty to have access to bail while the case is pending subject to adequate guarantees that Doherty would make himself available for whatever proceedings became necessary. This view had attracted adverse commentary in the Irish American media. When speaking with me Giuliani laid emphasis on the need for a good understanding between the United States and other countries so that criminals sought in one country should not find succour in another. Reciprocity is essential. He does not support political asylum in murder cases. As regards Britain he would expect that a person sought by the United States authorities but found in Britain would be extradited to the United States by the British. This seemed to me to be his principal reason for believing that Doherty should be sent to Britain. While saying this he seemed to accept that Doherty's crime was politically motivated and he argued that the crime would not have been committed but for the presence of British soldiers in Northern Ireland.

A further point he made was that he believed the U.S. Attorney General Dick Thornburgh is close to a decision on Doherty and he said he had urged Thornburgh to take a decision as soon as possible. He retreated (in my view for political reasons) from his previous public position that Doherty should be returned to the UK by saying that he had originally believed some years ago that Doherty should be sent to our jurisdiction and that the case should be handled there by people who know all the circumstances. I explained our position and the process which exists in our jurisdiction in extradition cases. Giuliani has since repeated his views on the Adrian Flannelly show. *which?*

Giuliani was confused as to whether he should meet with Noraid. This had been an issue in the Irish American Forum. He said that he was friendly with Peter Maas, an American novelist and journalist. (Maas' most recent exegesis on the Northern Ireland problem appeared in the Sunday Times last year and gave more emphasis to Sinn Fein than to SDLP concerns). I briefed Giuliani in detail on the current political situation in Northern Ireland and on the results of the local Government elections. I also referred him to the view of the U.S. Justice Department of Noraid. He said he fully supported the MacBride Principles.

To sum up, Giuliani, except on the Doherty issue, is broadly sympathetic to Irish American concerns though his knowledge of the detail is skimpy. He is, however, a very receptive person and would in my view be attentive to Irish Government concerns were he to be elected Mayor. He said, for example, he would be supportive on matters affecting Irish immigrants. He is a leading contender for Mayor of New York though a

great deal will depend on who is chosen in the democratic primary to oppose him and on Giuliani's stamina and ability to survive a six month campaign which is likely to be a very tough one.

Yours sincerely,

*Daithi O Ceallaigh*  
Daithi O Ceallaigh  
Consul General.

cc: Ambassador, Washington