

news brief



PRESIDENT CLINTON'S VISIT

BULLETIN ONE

This is the first in a series of bulletins for NIIS members - more will follow as merited in the weeks between now and 30 November.

As my note of 3 October made clear, we will be looking to involve, to some degree or other and in some role or other, all NIIS members.

So it is only sensible and fair that you know as much as there is to know about the visit. The information is not classified - please use it as you need /see fit. The only caveat - all things can and do and will change between now and the end of next month.

A site visits team comprising Frank, Don, and Andrew have already been looking at possible locations in the company of US recce teams.

The programme

At present it looks like this:

- after two days in London and the SE (Nov 28 - 29) the President and Mrs Clinton will fly into Northern Ireland on the morning of Thursday 30 November and undertake a series of engagements. At this stage we don't know if the PM will accompany. The weather will dictate flying programmes so there will be a driving and a flying version.
- He will probably head first for Londonderry. Much of his programme will be based around the Guildhall, Guildhall Square and possibly the City Walls. He may do something involving the University of Ulster (Magee Campus). Rest of the plans for Derry are still vague.
- Then back to Belfast where receptions/speeches are likely to feature. Possible venues: the Whitla Hall and Mackies. Another possible runner is the switching on of the Christmas lights.

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S
visit to
NORTHERN IRELAND

- He may overnight in Belfast. He might then visit (Friday, December 1) a "homestead" near Rosslea in Fermanagh where his "cousin" Mick Cassidy lives.

Media arrangements

- The White House Press corps will have their own centre - possibly the Europa.
- The rest of the media will be serviced through a communications centre at the King's Hall (it is possible that the Americans will come on board at the same venue and have their centre close by ours thus making life a little easier for some.)

We envisage a Press Centre where journalists can see live coverage and file and interview.

Balmoral will also be the location for briefing opportunities by various interests - IDB, NITB, NIO.

Andy Wood
Director