

2006-0478-F

OPEN, Box 1 of 1

Clinton Presidential Records
WHORM—Subject File—General
PP005-01
147070 [OA/ID 10732]

TO

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Emails
Exchange-Non-Record (Mar 97-Jan 01)
[Belfast and tree...]
[12/01/1997 – 11/03/1998]
[OA/ID 630000]



FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records
Subgroup/Office of Origin: Records Management - SUBJECT FILE
Series/Staff Member:
Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 10732
Scan ID: 147070
Document Number:

Folder Title:
PP005-01

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
S	87	5	4	3

147070
PP005-01

January 3, 1996

PERSONAL

Mr. Don Price
Managing Director
Belfast Telegraph
124-144 Royal Avenue
Belfast BT1 1EB
NORTHERN IRELAND

Dear Mr. Price:

Thank you for sending the Belfast Telegraph account of our recent visit. It was a pleasure to meet the winners of the letter writing contest. I share their joy at the beautiful tree lighting ceremony in Belfast. It was a memorable experience.

With best wishes for a New Year blessed with peace, I am

Sincerely yours,

HILLARY CLINTON
Hillary Rodham Clinton

HC/JRA/jfc

(Corres. #2605680)

~~cc:~~ WH Gifts

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

GIFT UNIT CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING SHEET

Date gift presented 12/8/95

Date gift received in Gift Unit 12/11/95

Date contact made with State Dept
regarding salutation and address _____

Date information received from
State Department _____

Date gift draft written 12/14/95

Date of internal editing _____

Date sent to NSC for clearance _____

Date returned from NSC _____

Date sent to editing/
Presidential support/FLO office _____

Editing Date _____

Typing Date *formatted 12/27 jfc*
1/3/96 jfc

Final Approval _____



4th December 1995

Mrs W Clinton
The White House
Washington DC
USA

Dear Mrs Clinton

I am writing to thank you for reading from our 'Letters to the President' during your visit to Belfast last week. Our newspaper ran the national competition for schoolchildren to write to the President, and the two winners joined you and President Clinton at Belfast City Hall for switching on the Christmas Tree lights. For these children, this was a moment they will never forget.

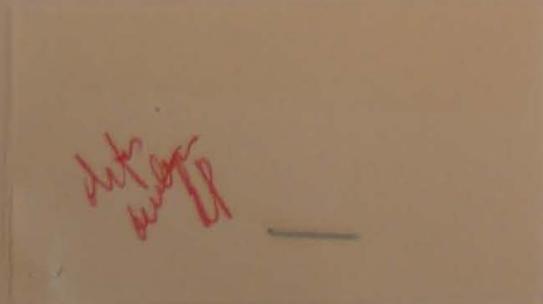
I thought you might be interested to see how we covered the visit to Northern Ireland in our newspaper and am enclosing a few editions which capture the mood. The Belfast Telegraph is by far the largest selling newspaper in Northern Ireland and is read by almost half the adult population of the province.

It was a memorable occasion for us all and I send you and President Clinton our sincere thanks and best wishes. As a bystander at the Europa Hotel on your departure put it simply "President Clinton is a good man."

Yours sincerely,

DON PRICE
Managing Director

Encs



Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHBLA0432 3050814-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 010813Z NOV 95
LINE4: FM AMCONSUL BELFAST
OSRI: RUEHBL
DTG: 010813Z NOV 95
ORIG: AMCONSUL BELFAST
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8661
INFO: RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 8123
RUEHDL/AMEMBASSY DUBLIN 5883
SUBJ: NORTHERN IRELAND MEDIA REPORT

OCTOBER 20 - OCTOBER 30

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 05 BELFAST 0432

USIA

NSC FOR PETERS/SODERBERG

E.O. 12356: N/A

SUBJECT: NORTHERN IRELAND MEDIA REPORT

OCTOBER 20 - OCTOBER 30

NOTE: THROUGHOUT THIS REPORT THE THREE MAIN
NORTHERN IRELAND NEWSPAPERS ARE QUOTED:
NEWS LETTER - STRONG UNIONIST EDITORIAL POLICY
IRISH NEWS - STRONG NATIONALIST EDITORIAL POLICY
BELFAST TELEGRAPH - NEUTRAL TO MODERATE UNIONIST
EDITORIAL POLICY.

MEDIA INTEREST IN US - NORTHERN IRELAND AFFAIRS HAS
REMAINED EXTREMELY HIGH. NEWS THAT PLANS WERE
BEING MADE FOR PRESIDENT CLINTON TO LIGHT BELFAST
CITY COUNCIL'S CHRISTMAS TREE PROVOKED A NEGATIVE
RESPONSE FROM SOME UNIONIST COUNCILLORS WHO
FAVOURED A PROPOSAL THAT CHILDREN'S TV
CHARACTERS "POWER RANGERS" UNDERTAKE THE
CEREMONY INSTEAD.

INTEREST IN THE FORTHCOMING PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

REMAINS HIGH.

SEPARATE VISITS TO US BY DUP LEADER IAN PAISLEY AND UNIONIST PARTY LEADER DAVID TRIMBLE GENERATED REPORTS RELATING TO UNIONIST OPINION OF US INTEREST IN NORTHERN IRELAND. REPORTS ARE MIXED, THE GENERAL TONE BEING THAT UNIONISTS REMAIN SUSPICIOUS OF US MOTIVES.

SEVERAL REPORTS SUGGESTED THAT US / PRESIDENT CLINTON HAD AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN PROGRESSING THE NORTHERN IRELAND PEACE PROCESS.

PRESIDENTIAL VISIT: BELFAST CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

IRISH NEWS OCTOBER 24 REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT CLINTON IS TO SWITCH ON BELFAST'S CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS. QUOTING BELFAST CHAMBER OF TRADE CHIEF EXECUTIVE FRANK CADDY: "THIS IS TERRIFIC NEWS." THE REPORT ALSO STATED THAT IN ORDER TO STIMULATE CHRISTMAS TRADE THE MAIN CITY LIGHTS WOULD BE SWITCHED ON FROM MID-NOVEMEBER.

NEWS LETTER OCTOBER 26 REPORTED THAT "A ROW HAD ERUPTED AT BELFAST CITY HALL OVER PLANS FOR US PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON'S VISIT TO THE CITY." IT WAS REPORTED THAT THE COUNCIL HAD ALREADY MADE ARRANGEMENT FOR TV CHARACTERS POWER RANGERS TO SWITCH ON THE LIGHTS. IT WAS REPORTED THAT SOME COUNCILLORS EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE COST.

IN A REPORT THE FOLLOWING DAY THE NEWS LETTER WROTE: "SEVERAL COUNCILLORS ARE ANGRY THAT THEY ARE EXPECTED TO RUBBER STAMP THE PRESIDENT'S NOVEMBER 30 APPEARANCE, DETAILS OF WHICH LEAKED THIS WEEK."

QUOTING ULSTER UNIONIST COUNCILLOR JIM CLARKE: "I PERSONALLY DON'T THINK IT'S APPROPRIATE TO HAVE PRESIDENT CLINTON. TRADITIONALLY THIS HAS BEEN AN EVENT FOR CHILDREN AND I'M APPREHENSIVE THAT THERE WILL BE SO MUCH SECURITY...I ALSO DON'T THINK THIS IS AN EVENT THAT SHOULD BE POLITICISED IN ANY WAY."

THE BELFAST TELEGRAPH OCTOBER 27 CARRIED OUT A SURVEY AMONGST 27 SCHOOL CHILDREN TO DISCOVER WHO THEY FOUND MOST EXCITING: THE POWER RANGERS OR PRESIDENT CLINTON. THE POWER RANGERS WON BY 24 VOTES TO 3. QUOTING THE CHILDREN: "BUT SPEAKING FOR THE MINORITY DAVID MALLIN SAID 'I THINK IT SHOULD BE BILL CLINTON AS THE POWER RANGERS CAN BE QUITE VIOLENT.' ONE CHILD SUGGESTED A COMPROMISE WITH PRESIDENT CLINTON WEARING A POWER RANGERS SUIT FOR THE OCCASION.

A PHONE-IN POLL ON UTV ASKING VIEWERS THEIR