

11/4/95

Martin

A Chair,

I'm sitting here tonight, Sunday 11/4/95 and my feelings must, I believe represent a great many people in Ireland at this moment in our history. Co-incidentally I met Grainne McCafferty, Head of St. Cecilia's College, at the weekend. Grainne has always been a most honest and firm supporter and she said to me that she longed for the day when the girls leaving her school could do so with the prospect of real jobs and an equal future for themselves and their families-to-be. She added that she was shattered at the possibility of a collapse or even an adjournment or the "parking" of the peace process. She went on to ask me was there nothing which could be done?

Of course, I had no answers and the purpose of writing this note is in a sense to relieve the anxiety which is felt by myself and throughout the community. You are aware of course, of my views on the decommissioning issue, - that at this moment in our history Time is more important than weapons. This, of course, is not the view of the Republican Movement and I, and a great many other people, respect and



understand this position.

The analyses, as put forward by yourself and Mitchell McLaughlin <sup>recently</sup> <sup>Agreement</sup> regarding The Good Friday <sup>Agreement</sup> of one year ago, are very sound and very compelling and I find no fault in them.

However, I am plagued by the thought given to me in the 60s by Eddie Tinney that there's something very wrong with this country when it has taken 600 years to gain its freedom.

As you have said recently, there can be no going back and I'm wondering if the time has come to demand the inclusion of the current leadership of Oiaig Na hEirann and by implication, the leadership of the other groupings, into this peace process.

It is becoming more obvious to me that we have set up and developed a peace process which excludes <sup>a great number of</sup> the very people who did the fighting on both sides. Looking at it like this, the current process has a major design fault. The permanent exclusion of the people who have to die in the event of failure, is a nonsense and I'm just wondering why I hadn't seen it like this, as it was developing.

I know the pro-democracy argument against this thinking, but then, it was in



the very name of democracy that Patrick Mayhew convinced John Major to introduce the decommissioning argument - with the sole purpose of excluding the Republicans and loyalist people from sharing in government.

Could you please give some ~~few~~ consideration attention to these thoughts which I believe are written on behalf of a wider constituency <sup>than myself</sup>. As I have ended in the past - you have my full support in a very difficult task.

Is mise lenos.

BD



11/4/99

POL35/564(4)

A Chara,

I'm sitting here tonight, Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April 1999 and my feelings must, I believe, represent a great many people in Ireland at this moment in our history. Coincidentally I met Grainne Mc Cafferty, Head of St. Cecilia's College at the weekend. Grainne has always been a most honest and firm supporter and she said to me that she longed for the day when the girls leaving her school could do so with the prospect of real jobs and an equal future for themselves and their families-to-be. She added that she was shattered at the possibility of a collapse or even an adjournment or the 'parking' of the peace process. She went on to ask me was there nothing which could be done?

Of course, I had no answers and the purpose of writing this note is in a sense to relieve the anxiety which is felt by myself and throughout the community. You are aware, of course of my views on the decommissioning issue, that at this moment in our history, **"Time is more important than weapons."** This, of course, is not the view of the Republican Movement and I, and a great many other people, respect and understand this position.

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I know the pro-democracy argument against this thinking, but then, it was in the very name of democracy that Patrick Mayhew convinced John Major to introduce the decommissioning argument - with the sole purpose of excluding the Republican and loyalist people from sharing in government.

Could you please give some attention to these thoughts which I believe are written on behalf of a wider constituency than myself. As I have ended in the past - you have my full support in a very difficult task.

Mise le meas

Brendan