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CCP
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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

18 February 1985

Dear Charles.

Yes Mr

Prime Minister
Agree with
Olivier might
should reply as
proposed?
CDP
10/2

Northern Ireland: Letter to the Prime Minister
from US Congressman Biaggi

On 13 February HM Ambassador in Washington received a request from Congressman Biaggi for a meeting with the Prime Minister during her forthcoming visit to Washington.

You will be aware that the Congressman and his 'Ad Hoc Committee for Irish Affairs' are no friends of this country and in reporting Biaggi's approach HM Ambassador proposed (subject to any instructions to the contrary) to tell him that the programme would not allow a meeting with him and his colleagues. We gave no countermanding instructions.

The Embassy has since forwarded today the enclosed letter to the Prime Minister from the Congressman and 39 of his colleagues calling on her to deal with Northern Ireland issues when she addresses Congress on Wednesday. Northern Ireland issues are of course covered in the speech for the Prime Minister's use, which has been submitted separately. The Ambassador has recommended that he should send a brief reply on the Prime Minister's behalf, at the end of the week, enclosing the text of her address. This seems sensible. If you agree, we will inform Washington.

Yours ever,

L V Appleyard

(L V Appleyard)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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MARIO BIAGGI

19TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

2428 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON 20515
(202) 224-6464

DISTRICT OFFICES:

BRONX

3255 WESTCHESTER AVENUE
BRONX, NEW YORK 10461
(212) 931-0100

YONKERS

SECOND FLOOR
5 SEMINARY AVENUE
YONKERS, NEW YORK 10704
(914) 375-0500

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

February 13, 1985

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SUBCOMMITTEES:
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VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
LABOR MANAGEMENT
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SUBCOMMITTEES:
CHAIRMAN,
MERCHANT MARINE
COAST GUARD AND NAVIGATION
SELECT COMMITTEE ON
AGING
SUBCOMMITTEE:
CHAIRMAN, HUMAN SERVICES
CHAIRMAN, AD HOC
CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE
FOR IRISH AFFAIRS

The Honorable Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
c/o Embassy of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
3100 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Prime Minister Thatcher:

We the undersigned members of Congress share a deep concern about Northern Ireland and are united in our hope that a peaceful political solution can be developed. We are therefore writing to respectfully request that you discuss Northern Ireland during your address to a joint session of Congress on February 20, 1985.

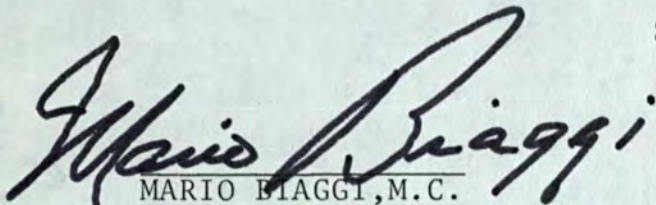
We would be especially interested in your perspective on the recent meeting you held with Prime Minister FitzGerald and what prospects there might be for future meetings. Congressman Biaggi was informed by Ambassador Oliver Wright that during your December 22 meeting with President Reagan that you did brief the President on your talks with Dr. FitzGerald. This was also confirmed by the White House. In particular, we would appreciate your addressing yourself to the nature of your opposition to the various recommendations put forth by the New Ireland Forum and whether you might reconsider your position.

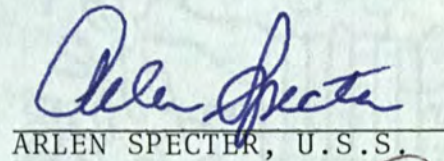
There are various other issues which do concern us and we would hope could be addressed on February 20. These include systematic discrimination and the effects of emergency legislation which continues to plague the Catholic community in Northern Ireland. Further, if you do in fact address Northern Ireland we would anticipate that you will use the occasion to condemn violence in Northern Ireland and properly so. However, in the condemnation we would hope that your remarks would be directed at all forms of violence in Northern Ireland. This would include the indiscriminate use of plastic bullets by the British Army and other security forces in the North of Ireland, which remains a matter of profound concern. We believe that both civilian and official violence must end if there is to be any real basis for peace.

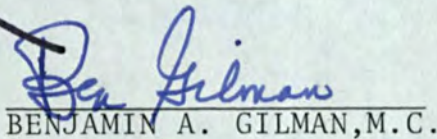
We contend that your February 20 address provides an unprecedented and historic opportunity to discuss the Northern Ireland issue. We hope you will give our views some consideration in the preparation of your address.

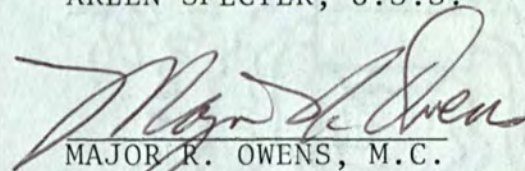
With best wishes, we remain

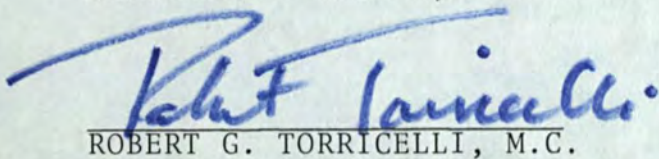
Sincerely,

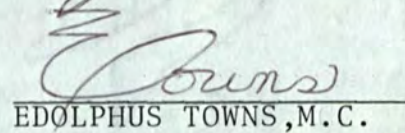

MARIO BIAGGI, M.C.

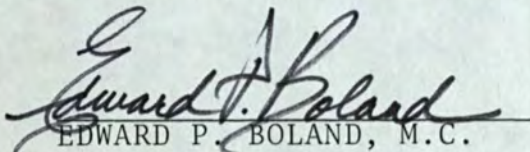

ARLEN SPECTER, U.S.S.

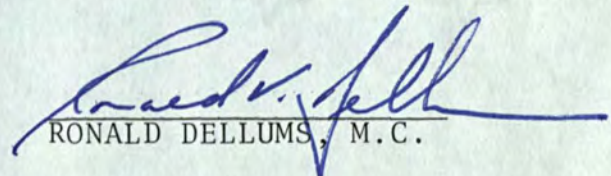

BENJAMIN A. GILMAN, M.C.

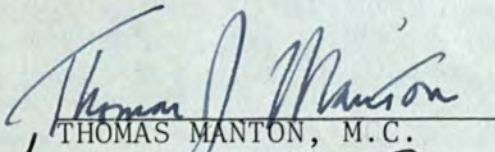

MAJOR R. OWENS, M.C.

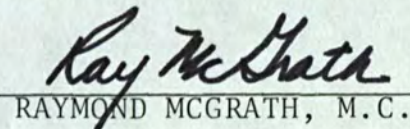

ROBERT G. TORRICELLI, M.C.

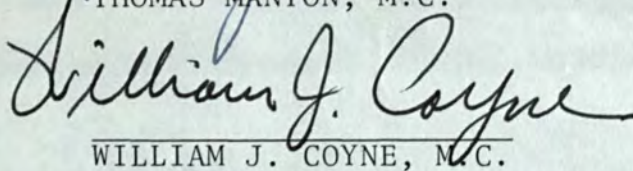

EDOLPHUS TOWNS, M.C.

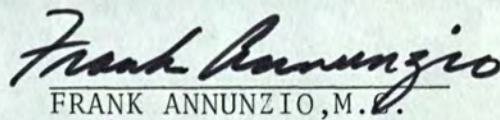

EDWARD P. BOLAND, M.C.

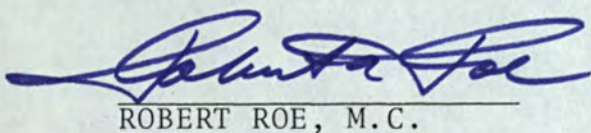

RONALD DELLUMS, M.C.

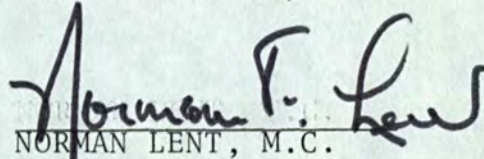

THOMAS MANTON, M.C.

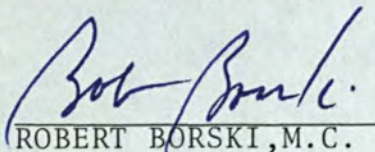

RAYMOND MCGRATH, M.C.

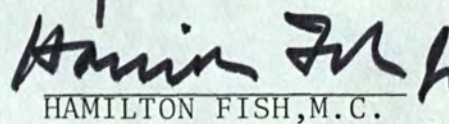

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FRANK ANNUNZIO, M.C.


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CHARLES E. SCHUMER, M.C.

Melvin Price
MELVIN PRICE, M.C.

William Clay
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JAMES JEFFORDS, M.C.

James Scheuer
JAMES SCHEUER, M.C.

Gary J. Ackerman
GARY J. ACKERMAN, M.C.

Bruce A. Morrison
BRUCE MORRISON, M.C.

James Florio
JAMES FLORIO, M.C.

Ted Weiss
TED WEISS, M.C.

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Alfonse D'Amato
ALFONSE D'AMATO, U.S.S.

Parren J. Mitchell
PARREN MITCHELL, M.C.

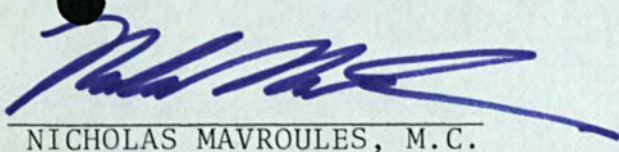
Mary Rose Oaker
MARY ROSE OAKAR, M.C.

Silvio Conte
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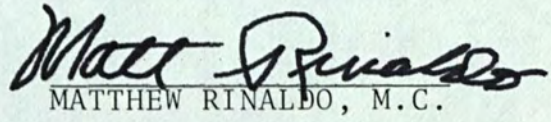
Pat Schroeder
PATRICIA SCHROEDER, M.C.

Matthew F. McHugh
MATTHEW F. MCHUGH

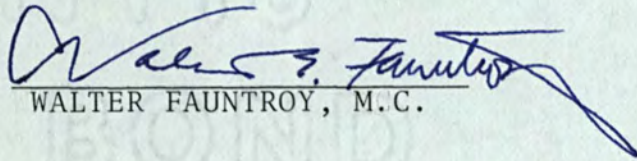
Norman Mineta
NORMAN MINETA, M.C.



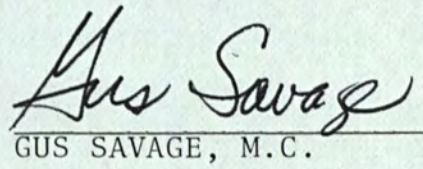
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MATTHEW RINALDO, M.C.



WALTER FAUNTROY, M.C.



GUS SAVAGE, M.C.