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INFO ROUTINE DUBLIN, CONSULATES IN THE US

*Edward*  
*As discussed,*  
*Washington seem to have*  
*His under control. They*  
*are not asking for help*  
*JEH 1/2*  
*More US electoral politics.*  
*for now. plus 18. Grr...*  
*+ like.*  
*10'18*

**ADVANCE COPY**

SUBJECT: APPRENTICE BOYS' MARCH: 10 AUGUST

SUMMARY

1. Congressmen ask State to assign monitors to cover the 10 August march. State Department opposed to the proposal.

DETAIL

2. On 30 July, at their invitation, I called on the House International Relations Committee to discuss their post-Drumcree concerns. Gilman (Chairman) said that they were keen to do what they could to help avoid a repetition of Drumcree; he (and Smith, Chairman of Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights) had written to Christopher. I ducked the question, saying that I was unsighted. His office later sent us a copy of the letter (by fax to RID and IPL, NIO).

3. Although the tone at the meeting was moderate (and much of the discussion covered the talks process, and the agreed Rules of Procedure text) the Gilman letter is strident: "Fundamental abuses of human rights, and the lack of respect for the dignity and diversity of the Catholic minority, have clearly resulted from the Orange Order marches that were forced through their communities, and have served to create extreme anxiety, anger and fear... Several of us in the Congress have already called upon President Clinton to do what he can to bring an end to these loyalist marches, and help restore order. It is imperative that the Administration do so now". The letter concludes with a request that Christopher: "Please promptly assign monitors from the [State Dept's] Human Rights Bureau to cover this August 10 1996 loyalist march. We need your personnel on-site to observe, report on, and help bring to bear some understanding and acknowledgement from the local

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authorities and the security forces on the need for the respect of human rights and the dignity of the people in the nationalist community who must face these offensive parades".

4. We spoke to State. Bass (EUR) said the proposal was a "natural non-starter". State had well-qualified, capable people in Belfast who would keep an eye on the march as part of their professional duties, monitoring it to the extent to needed to be monitored. To inject a new American role would only add to the tension of the marching season. On a personal basis, we pointed out that the presence of outside monitors was as likely to incite the crowd (spectators as much as marchers) to stage something for the benefit of the monitors as to deter marchers from violence. Bass took the point. Again speaking informally (we hoped to avoid the need for a formal demarche), we hoped that State would not approach us about the monitor proposal.

## COMMENT

5. Bass seemed confident that they would not. Electoral considerations might make Christopher reluctant to send the Congressmen a flat "no": he might prefer simply not to reply at all. Given the way I left matters with the Committee, I can and will do the same.

KERR

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