

**IRISH POLITICAL CORRESPONDENTS ATTENDING THE BRITISH IRISH
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY BODY, BATH, 22 - 25 SEPTEMBER 1996
AND INTERVIEW WITH THE PRIME MINISTER ON 25 SEPTEMBER**

Mr Stephen Collins, Political Correspondent, Sunday Tribune

Mr Frank Connolly, Political Correspondent, Sunday Business
Post

Mr John Cooney, Political Columnist, Sunday Tribune

Ms Margaret Claffey, (known as Una), Political Reporter, RTE

Mr Mark Costigan, Political Correspondent, Network Radio News,
FM 104/NRN

Mr Mark Hennessy, Political Correspondent, The Examiner

Ms Renagh Holohan, Political Columnist, The Irish Times

Dr Joe Mulholland, Director of News, RTE

Mr Gerry O'Connor, Political Correspondent, 98 FM/IRN

Mr Seosamh O'Cuaig, Political Correspondent, Radio Na
Gaeltachta

Mr Joseph O'Malley, Political Correspondent, Sunday
Independent

Mr Chris Parkin, Political Correspondent, Press Association

Mr Fergus Pyle, Senior Leader Writer, The Irish Times

To be confirmed, The Irish Independent

All are well-respected senior journalists.

Frank Connolly, a political correspondent of the Sunday
Business Post (circ.30,000) is consistently pro-republican in
his articles, he is likely to be strongly critical of
Government policies and possibly quite tough in any exchanges.

The other strongly pro-republican journalist is **Stephen
Collins** of the Sunday Tribune (circ.88,000). He is a very
astute and highly political journalist. He attended last
year's BIIPB visit. **John Cooney**, also of the Tribune, and
also on last year's visit, has a more liberal background than
Collins and was formerly a writer on religious affairs for the
Irish Times.

Joe Mulholland, Director of News, RTE, has a fairly deep green
tinge coming from a Donegal, Fianna Fail background but **Una
Claffey**, Political Correspondent, RTE, is likely to do most of
the reporting and she is a more middle of the road
commentator.

Mark Costigan, Chief Reporter, Network Radio News, covers political affairs targetted mainly at a young Dublin audience. He participated in last year's BIIPB visit.

Renagh Holohan was formerly Northern Editor and London Editor of the Irish Times (circ 100,000). She writes the weekend diary and is known particularly as a feature writer. Fergus Pyle is a former Editor and Northern Ireland correspondent of the Irish Times and an influential member of staff, currently the Senior Leader writer.

Joe O'Malley, Political Correspondent of the Sunday Independent (circ 340,000), is a prolific writer and relative of Des O'Malley, former leader of the Progressive Democrats.

Chris Parkin is a long time Press Association correspondent in Dublin who began his career in Belfast with PA in the early 1970s.

Mark Hennessy, Political Correspondent of The Examiner (circ. 53,000) participated in last year's BIIPB visit and filed a considerable number of reports.

Gerry O'Connor, Political Correspondent, is one of the founders of the 98 FM radio station.

Seosamh OCuaig, Political Correspondent of Raidio Na Gaeltachta, is a respected journalist on this Irish language radio station.

Irish Independent, (circ. 170,000). Bernard Purcell, the London editor, has had to cancel his attendance for urgent family reasons. We await confirmation of a replacement.