**ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS**

**BREHON LAW SOCIETY**

**IRISH AMERICAN UNITY CONFERENCE**

February 10, 2013

Mr. John Kerry

Secretary of State

Department of State

2201 C St. NW, 7th Fl.

Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

Welcome to Foggy Bottom! We can only repeat what many have already said about your singular preparedness for this position and for the challenge of representing America and its unique values to the nations of the world. We wish you all the best.

As you know, we had been in communication with Secretary of State Clinton on several occasions regarding Great Britain's misuse of the U. S.-U. K. Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) to obtain records from the Irish archives of Boston College. No doubt your letter to Secretary Clinton expressing similar concerns in January of last year prompted her to arrange for two subsequent meetings with her staff and representatives of our organizations. We were grateful for the discussions but found them inconclusive and, in some instances, disconcerting in terms of the lack of staff knowledge about the 1998 Belfast Agreements.

The MLAT provides a unique consultative role for the Secretary of State and the Attorney General to determine if the subpoenas of a foreign nation should be honored and enforced and, if so, would that compromise American policies and values. We have clearly defined several valid reasons which would, we believe, justify either the Attorney General or the Secretary of State objecting to these subpoenas.

Our coalition is made up of groups that have been very supportive of the Good Friday Agreement. It is because of that support and our concern for the peace process that we have asked for the opposition of the Secretary of State to these subpoenas. They are motivated by malice and unwisely honored and processed by a British government that seeks to undermine several key justice provisions of the Irish peace accord.

As you noted in your letter to Secretary Clinton, the related ongoing litigation involving the Belfast Project creators Ed Moloney and Anthony McIntyre, raises other serious legal and policy issues. These involve the constitutional rights of journalists and those engaged in academic research, the rubber-stamp processing of a request which, on its face, is a striking misuse of the MLAT and the operation of the Treaty in general.

Our opposition to the reach of these subpoenas and to their purpose remains steadfast. We hope you will share with Attorney General Holder the concerns for these subpoenas and the necessity for their withdrawal. We stand ready to meet again with State and Justice staff to document and defend these concerns that to enforce these subpoenas would be against America's interests and compromising of the laws and rights of Americans.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Mr. Brendan Moore Mr. Robert Dunne, Esq. Mr. Thomas J. Burke Jr. Esq.

National President President National President

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