AN COMHCHOISTE UM GHNÓTHÁÍ EACHTRACHA

JOINT COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Shannon Airport: Presentation.

Chairman: No. 2 on the agenda is a discussion with the Midwest Alliance against the War, +++

Mr. Edward Horgan: I advise members of this important Oireachtas Joint Committee on Foreign ++

Ms Mary Kelly: I thank the committee for this opportunity to speak on something which I ++

Mr. Horgan: Tim Hourigan will now discuss the CIA planes rendering prisoners through +

Mr. Tim Hourigan: I am glad to make this presentation. As Members of the Oireachtas, the +

Mr. Horgan: Ms Deirdre Morgan is a third year law student. She will discuss the UN +

Ms Deirdre Morgan: The purpose of this presentation paper is to open up a discussion on the +

Mr. Horgan: I will sum up using the theme of justice. If one thinks allowing 650,000 armed +++

Deputy Allen: I thank the four people who made submissions. They were quite right in saying +++

Deputy M. Higgins: I compliment the delegation on the thoroughness of the presentation. I also ++++

Senator Norris: I salute the four witnesses. They behaved honourably, remarkably and ++++

Senator Mooney: I agree with the general view expressed thus far that the
Deputy M. Higgins: It is more than an inference. Clarification is required.

Senator Mooney: We have always accepted the independence of the office of the Director of +

Deputy M. Higgins: I can recall, for example, a difference of opinion between the Director of +

Senator Mooney: I am grateful for that clarification. However, I would be concerned if we as ++

Senator Norris: I do not believe it at all.

Senator Mooney: ———but this is the reality of normal diplomatic relations and +++++

Senator O’Rourke: I thank the delegation for appearing before us. I was not at the last meeting ++++++++?

Deputy Gormley: I am not a member of the committee and am therefore very grateful to the ++

Senator O’Rourke: He would like to get out of it.

Deputy Gormley: At least he is aware what he did was wrong.++++++++

Deputy T. Dempsey: I am reminded of a teacher I had in Enniscorthy CBS many years ago called ++

Deputy Mulcahy: I welcome the group, although unfortunately I was not able to be here for the +++

Mr. Horgan: Chairman, may I reply?

Chairman: Mr. Horgan can do so in a general reply.

Mr. Horgan: It is an important point. One of the group’s members is currently before +

Deputy Mulcahy: I was just setting out a statement of principle and was not referring to ++++++++?

Deputy Durkan: Like other speakers, I have friends and close relatives in the US. I would like ++

Deputy M. Higgins: In respect of the anti-conscription league?
Deputy Durkan: It was not that far back, though the person I speak of would have gone back

Chairman: We have had an extensive discussion on the matters that we came here to address.

Senator Mooney: That he could not get the numbers in Congress might be a more realistic

Chairman: There are also hopeful signs in Iraq after the recent elections; it is another

Deputy M. Higgins: It was very depressing, since the situation has worsened.

Chairman: Yes, that is currently so. Some of the discussions were very depressing and

Mr. Horgan: I express our sincere thanks. If we did not feel this committee is genuine, we

Senator Mulcahy: Who said that? I would like to know.

Chairman: Perhaps Mr. Horgan might stick to the factual questions raised and make his own

Mr. Horgan: Fine. With regard to Deputy Allen’s point on the UN, it has been a common

Senator Mooney: I do not think they did. With respect, Mr. Horgan has been making that point

Chairman: It is now on the record.

Deputy M. Higgins: Yes, the issue is whether one can retrospectively pass a resolution, for

Mr. Horgan: The issues of the Hague Convention were raised, in particular——

Deputy M. Higgins: The issues of law and interpretation are worthy of investigation.

Chairman: We could go back and debate every issue, as Mr. Horgan can see. Are there any

Mr. Horgan: The issues of neutrality and the Hague Convention were raised. It was suggested

Deputy Mulcahy: I have a brief supplementary question on this for the group.
Mr. Horgan: Yes, in the same way that Switzerland would oppose the landing of US military

Deputy Mulcahy: That is the point of departure. On the one hand we have always lodged our

Mr. Horgan: That was so except in March 2003, when we walked right over the UN umbrella.

Chairman: Can we leave that for the moment as a matter of disagreement?

Deputy Mulcahy: Yes, but it is important to note it.

Chairman: Let us note it and we can discuss it again.

Deputy M. Higgins: It is a matter of whether we are in compliance with the United Nations Charter.

Senator Mooney: Following on what Deputy Michael D. Higgins has said and because of the

Mr. Horgan: We will try to be brief. The specific issues raised concerned US planes being

Chairman: Mr. Horgan has made that point. Perhaps he can go on to the next one.

Mr. Horgan: The situation in Iraq is grievously serious. We, the people of Ireland, as

Deputy Durkan: I do not want to re-open the debate, but it was I, not Deputy Allen, who made

Chairman: We are way over time, so I am afraid we will have to bring matters to a close.

Mr. Hourigan: I will try to be as brief as possible. Some questions were directed

Chairman: On behalf of the joint committee I thank the witnesses for appearing before us

Mr. Horgan: We appreciate the manner in which the joint committee addressed this important

The joint committee went into private session at 1.45 p.m. and adjourned at 1.50 p.m. sine die.