

**AN COMHCHOISTE UM
GHNÓTHAÍ 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

information with +++++

⊕ **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.

If the UN +

⊕ **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.