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Madison, Wisconsin, 5 November 1950

Dear Mr O’Nolan,

Thank you for yours of the 31 October. As you may know, my grandfather was from Tipperary and while I try to keep tabs on the old country I am not in any way sentimental, sir. In the list of names you have sent me it is not clear to me what you mean by “greenlisting.” In my book, *Un-American Activities include Irish-American Un-American Activities*. Some of the individuals flagged in your letter are persons of interest here already, others are more elusive, and possibly pseudonyms that I would ask you to unmask further in your reply to this letter.

You refer to a shady character known as “The Brother.” You will be aware that along with “Comrade” this is the most common form of address used by subversives – “Friend” is another. Anything outside the family and not addressing immediate superiors by rank is to be treated with suspicion. “The Brother” sounds like someone we would like to examine under oath. The use of the definite article suggests a position of leadership in an organisation, most likely sinister and clandestine, and I would urge you to divulge any additional details you may have in your possession. Likewise, “The Porter” strikes me as worthy of attention, and for the same reasons.

The Committee is also interested in a group you refer to as “The Plain People of Ireland.” We have a saying here: “There are no plain people, only plainclothes policemen.” Which brings me to a third category of person on the list you provided. We don’t like crooked cops, sir, unless they’re working for us. “The Third Policeman” sounds like he could be one of our undercover agents and I would ask you to hold fire on exposing this person until we have run a background check on our current assets in the field. We are concerned about his having access to atomic secrets, if this is demonstrated to exceed his brief. As for the troublesome diminutive Southern figure you refer to as a “wee Cork nuisance,” measured by triangulation, he is, we believe, a linchpin in a network seeking to deploy electromagnetism as a way of undermining the United States Government.

We would like more information on Keats and Chapman. Those two fellows have the air of conspirators. You mention also a Flann O’Brien and a Myles na Gopaleen; further details on these individuals would help us in our investigations.

One final question, Mr O’Nolan. One of our field agents has unearthed a red rag from your green isle which caused us some consternation. The organ I refer to is *Blather*, the first issue of which (dated August 1934) offers a “manifesto” in the totalitarian egalitarian extremist Marxist tradition. It reads: “Every nerve will be strained towards the achievement of the BLATHER Revolution and the establishment of the BLATHER Dictatorship, followed by the inauguration of the BLATHER Communist Monarchy. Gunplay will be rife, the Motherland will be soaked in a bath of blood, Chinese Tong Wars will stalk the land. But we will win the day and the brutal military heel of BLATHER will crush the neck of its enemies.”

As a fellow Catholic and Republican you will understand how it would vex me to see the spectre of socialism take root in Ireland. Please assure me that Ireland is safe from Godless Communism. Looking forward to further disclosures, I remain,

Your friend in faith and free speech,
Joe (Senator Joseph Raymond McCarthy)