



**Press Release –Tel. 202-3492043
Embassy of Ireland, Washington D.C.**

Ambassador Collins Initiates Strategic Review

During his recent inaugural visit to the United States in July, the Taoiseach, Mr Brian Cowen, TD, recalled the exceptionally close historical and current ties between Ireland and the United States. He said that in the context of peace in Northern Ireland and Ireland's economic development he foresaw new opportunities to further develop this relationship and partnership into the future. In pursuit of this, he announced that Ambassador Michael Collins would undertake a strategic review of all the relevant issues and report to the Government by the end of the year.

Ambassador Collins said today that he wishes to undertake the widest possible consultation process in reviewing ties between Ireland and the United States and as part of this process he has invited considered contributions to the strategic review which he is undertaking.

Today Ambassador Collins said;

"Relations between our two countries and peoples have never been better. The review will map out how relations can be further developed in this era of peace and economic development.

I am looking forward to receiving considered contributions from across the United States from organizations and individuals by the end of October 2008".

Considered contributions, to be received no later than end October 2008, should be sent via the Embassy e-mail at washingtonembassy@dfa.ie or by post to Strategic Review, Embassy of Ireland, 2234 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20008-2849.

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