DRAFT OF MAYOR’S ADDRESS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALS’ FEDERATION ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR IRISH HOSPITAL STUDY TOUR, 1956, UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH, ORGANISED BY THE HOSPITALS’ COMMISSION.

It affords me great pleasure to welcome the members of the International Hospitals’ Federation here to Limerick.

I trust that during their short stay in Limerick, they will find many aspects of hospital work to interest them, and that their visit generally, shall be both informative and interesting.

I had intended meeting the distinguished members of this touring party at the commencement of their tour, at St. Luke’s Hospital, of which I have the honour of being Chairman, but unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to be present. I am now glad to avail of this opportunity of bidding you all a "Cead Mile Failte" to Ireland, and in particular, to this ancient City of Limerick.

The practice of studying what neighbouring countries are doing, and in fact, what civilized countries are doing, through the medium of international tours, commends itself to me very highly. These tours stimulate thought and open up new aspects of administration and new approaches to the application of nursing technique, hospital administration, and last but not least, on the design and lay-out of hospital buildings.

We here in Ireland have never hesitated to send our administrative officers, our doctors and medical experts and our architects and engineers abroad, so that they might become familiar with practices in other countries and might benefit from their association with their brother experts in other lands. I trust, therefore, that your tour in this country of ours will prove to be interesting and informative in every way.

My only regret as far as Limerick is concerned is that your stay in Limerick is for such a short time and that you will be able to visit only one of the Institutions in this area.

I trust, however, that your visit to that Institution will convey to you some idea of the effort which is being made in this country to improve the health services generally.
I should also like to thank the Hospitals' Commission who, I understand, organised this tour, and also the Minister for Health, under whose patronage the tour has been arranged.
A Chara,

I wish to refer to the establishment of a Committee to meet representatives of the Hospitals Study Tour Committee who are organising the forthcoming Irish Hospitals Study Tour 1956.

I have now been advised that representatives of the Organising Committee will attend at the Limerick Regional Hospital on Wednesday 18th April 1956 at 11.30 a.m. with a view to discussing the forthcoming tour and the arrangements being made in connection with their visit to Limerick. It would be appreciated if you would arrange to attend at the Hospital on that date.

Mise, le meas,

[Signature]

M. MacKen Esq.,
City Manager,
Town Hall,
Limerick.
Dear Manager,

I acknowledge with thanks copy of programme and explanatory memorandum covering forthcoming visit of the Irish Hospitals Study Tour.

Yours faithfully,

Mayor.

M. Macken, Esq.,
City Manager.
14th March, 1956.

Dear Sir,

With reference to yours of 9th instant, I desire to inform you that I have discussed this matter with the Mayor, and he will be only too pleased to act on the Committee as suggested.

I shall be glad if you will let me have another copy of the programme and explanatory memorandum for the information of the Mayor.

Yours faithfully,

City Manager.

D. F. Donovan, Esq.,
County Secretary,
82/83, O'Connell Street,
LIMERICK.
Dear Mr. Macken,

With regard to our previous conversation regarding the proposed visit of the Irish Hospitals Study Tour, I have now received a letter setting out programme and Explanatory Memo, copy of which I enclose lest you may not have received it already. The representatives of the Organising Committee intend visiting here on the week commencing 9th April to discuss arrangements to be made, and it is intended that the following Committee be set up to meet them:-

J.J. Collins Esq., T.D. Chairman Limerick County Council.
Alderman G.E. Russell, Mayor of Limerick.
P.J. Meghen, Esq., County Manager.
M. Macken Esq., City Manager.
Chevalier P.J. Sheahan, Architect,
Dr. J. Nash, Physician Superintendent,
M.J. Murphy Esq., Surgeon,
Sr. M. de Fatima, Matron.

I have approached the other members of the Committee except the Mayor. Perhaps you would mention the matter to him and let me know whether he would be available. I am presuming that, as indicated by you already, you will be available.

Yours sincerely,

M. Macken Esq.,
City Manager,
Town Hall,
Limerick.

COUNTY SECRETARY.
(Organised by the Hospitals Commission under the auspices of the International Hospital Federation.)

**M A Y 21-31, 1956.**

**Programme of Hospital Visits.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Hospital</th>
<th>Time of Visit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, May 21</td>
<td>St. Luke’s Hospital</td>
<td>9.30 a.m. to 12 noon</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dublin Fever Hospital</td>
<td>1 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 22</td>
<td>Our Lady’s Hospital for Sick Children</td>
<td>9.30 a.m. to 12 noon</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mater Misericordiae Hospital</td>
<td>1 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 23</td>
<td>(a) Half-Party</td>
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<td></td>
<td>County Hospital, Tullamore</td>
<td>10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ballinasloe Mental Hospital</td>
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<td></td>
<td>or Portumna Hospital</td>
<td>3.45 p.m. to 5.15 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(b) Half-Party</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Castlerea Mental Hospital</td>
<td>1.15 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>County Hospital, Roscommon</td>
<td>4.15 p.m. to 5.15 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 24</td>
<td>Western Regional Sanatorium, Galway</td>
<td>10 a.m. to 2 p.m.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Regional General Hospital, Galway</td>
<td>2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, May 25</td>
<td>Limerick Regional Hospital</td>
<td>2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Hospital</th>
<th>Time of Visit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, May 26</td>
<td>District and Fever Hospitals, Killarney&lt;br&gt;District Hospital, Cahirciveen</td>
<td>9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.&lt;br&gt;12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, May 28</td>
<td>Southern Regional Sanatorium, Cork&lt;br&gt;Orthopaedic Hospital, Gurranebrehe&lt;br&gt;Hospital of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Lotsa</td>
<td>11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.&lt;br&gt;3 p.m. to 5 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 29</td>
<td>County Hospital, Kilkenny</td>
<td>2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 30</td>
<td>(a) Half-Party&lt;br&gt;Rotunda Hospital&lt;br&gt;Dublin Regional Sanatorium&lt;br&gt;St. Mary's Orthopaedic Hospital, Cappagh</td>
<td>9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.&lt;br&gt;12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.&lt;br&gt;4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(b) Half-Party&lt;br&gt;National Maternity Hospital&lt;br&gt;St. Michael's Hospital, Dun Laoghaire&lt;br&gt;Meath Hospital - G.U. Unit</td>
<td>9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.&lt;br&gt;12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.&lt;br&gt;4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 31</td>
<td>Hospital of Choice in Dublin</td>
<td>Forenoon.</td>
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The Study Tour of Irish Hospitals which will be held from 21st to 31st May, 1956, is being organised by the Hospitals Commission under the auspices of the International Hospital Federation and under the patronage of the Minister for Health.

Hospital Study Tours are held in different countries every two years for the benefit of members of the International Hospital Federation. Previous Study Tours were held in Holland (1948), Sweden (1950), Italy (1952) and France (1954).

The Irish Tour should prove most informative and interesting in view of the extensive hospital construction programme carried out in Ireland over the past 25 years, involving an expenditure of some £30,000,000 on a wide variety of new hospitals serving all branches of medicine. The Tour has been planned to include visits to a representative number of these hospitals.

In order to ensure the success of the Tour, the Hospitals Commission confidently counts on the whole-hearted co-operation of the authorities and staffs of the hospitals which have been specially selected for visits by the participants. We have a reputation for traditional courtesy and hospitality towards the friendly visitor to our shores and during the forthcoming Study Tour we will be afforded a distinctive opportunity to show those qualities to the representatives of 20 or more nations who will be participating in the Tour.

Programme of Hospital Visits. The attached Programme gives a time-table of the visits which have been planned for 25 selected hospitals and it will be seen that it is a fairly full programme to have completed within the limited time of 11 days.

Number of Participants. It is estimated that approximately 150 participants will take part in the Study Tour here this year. In addition, the members of the Organising Committee, officials
and interpreters will bring the overall total to approximately 165.

The experience gained in previous Study Tours had led the International Hospital Federation to place the limit of 150 on the number of participants so that (among other reasons) the visits to the individual hospitals should not unduly disturb the normal working routine of the staffs or interfere with the comfort of the patients.

Arrangements for Visits to Hospitals.

To ensure an orderly progression through the hospital, while at the same time to afford an adequate opportunity to study its particular features, it will obviously be necessary to have the arrangements of the visit to each individual hospital well planned beforehand. While it is fully understood that it would be unreasonable to lay down a standard routine for all the hospital visits (owing to the variations in size, design and number of departments in each one), the following general comments will, it is hoped, be of interest to those responsible for conducting the visitors through their own particular hospital.

1. Main Groupings: In view of the diverse interests of the participants, it is intended to divide them into three main Groups, as follows:-

   (i) Medical and Nursing

   (ii) Administrative

   (iii) Technical (Architects, Engineers etc.)

2. Official Languages: French and English are the two official languages of the Tour and all official announcements (written and oral) will need to be issued in these two languages. The main Groupings mentioned above will, therefore, need to be further sub-divided into French-speaking and English-speaking sections in accordance with the respective numbers in each category.

3. Division of Groups for Hospital Visits: It can be seen that there will be at least six different groupings of the participants for the purpose of effectively carrying out the
inspection of most of the hospitals on the itinerary. For some of the smaller hospitals, the inspection will probably be carried out in groups appropriate to the limitations of space and of separate departments involved.

For the larger hospitals it is usual to have Groups varying in number from 15 to 20, but no Group should exceed 25 in number. It is customary for members of each Group to ask questions as they go through the hospital and an unwieldy group could represent many difficulties to the guide and occasion unwelcome delays.

Each Group would be under a separate guide. It would be necessary to have the routes of the separate Groups carefully planned and timed so as to avoid clashing with other Groups and so that each would complete the visit according to the specified time-table.

It is possible that the segregation of the Groups could be somewhat like this:

**French-Speaking Groups:**
- Groups 1 & 2 (Medical & Nursing)
- Groups 3 & 4 (Administrative)
- Group 5 (Technical)

**English-Speaking Groups:**
- Groups 6 & 7 (Medical & Nursing)
- Groups 8 & 9 (Administrative)
- Group 10 (Technical)

but it must be understood that no segregation of Groups will be practicable until the participants preferences are known. It is as well, however, at this stage to visualize what would be needed in the way of planned arrangements to cater for such varied Groupings as mentioned above.

4. **Planning of Routes in Each Hospital:** It is advisable that in each of the hospitals an early consideration should be given to the planning of the routes through the hospital to be followed by possibly 6 or 10 different groups. In planning these routes, special attention should be paid to the timing so that the full journey through the hospital (allowing for inevitable delays in answering questions) will be completed in due time. Safeguards should also be provided to prevent Groups from intermingling at any intermediate points.

5. **Selection of Guides:** As each Group will be headed by a Guide who must be conversant with the route to be followed and able to give descriptive details of the various Departments
passed through, it is recommended that a script should be prepared beforehand and rehearsed with the Guides. In other countries, members of the medical and nursing staffs of the hospitals acted as Guides. In addition, members of the staff of each hospital were stationed at vantage points along the route who were competent to answer questions about particular facets of the hospital's work. For instance, when viewing the Operating Theatre it would be a distinct advantage to have the Theatre Sister present to give replies to any queries that may be raised.

6. **Group Markings:**

For the purpose of ready identification of the various Groups, it is recommended that marked cards (either in alphabetical or numerical order) mounted on canes or light poles should be carried at the head of each Group. These markings will be of help to the participants and hospital staffs alike, especially if any of the participants should stray away from their own Group and need to be re-attached.

7. **Languages:**

While a number of interpreters will be available for the French-speaking Groups, it would add greatly to the efficient working of the arrangements if members of hospital staffs with a speaking knowledge of French or any other European language were also available to supplement the services of the interpreters. This would be particularly helpful in supplying answers to questions related to particular features of the hospital's working.

8. **Draft Schemes of Visits:**

The Organising Committee is anxious (if possible) to receive suggestions from the hospitals individually regarding any particular arrangements which would be desirable for the smooth running of the visits to their hospitals, especially if there are any special features of lay-out or limitations of space in some of the hospitals which will need separate planning.

It would be most helpful at this stage if in each hospital a draft scheme for the visit on the basis (say) of 6, 8 or 10 Groups (half English-Speaking and half French-Speaking) were prepared and submitted to the Organising Committee. The Scheme could be illustrated diagrammatically showing the various routes to be traversed by each Group. Such tentative plans and suggestions should be addressed to:

**Emman de Barra,**

**Organising Secretary,**

**Irish Hospital Study Tour,**

**52 Upper Mount Street,**

**Dublin.**

Ed8/AB.

16.2.56.