

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001



March 11, 2004

Reply to Attn of:

GG

TO: Distribution

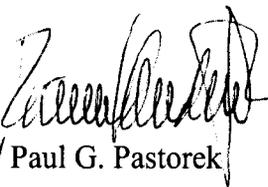
FROM: G/General Counsel

SUBJECT: Blanket Determination Regarding Attendance at the American Ireland Fund's
12th National Gala, March 16, 2004

The American Ireland Fund will hold its 12th National Gala, at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C., on March 16, 2004. It has been determined to be in the best interest of the Government for those NASA employees who are invited to this event to attend in their official capacities and as representatives of NASA.

During the Gala, awards will be presented to the Honorable Tony Blair and Congressman Peter King. The event will be widely attended by members of Congress, their staffers, officials from other Federal agencies, representatives from the private sector including the aerospace industry, and a cross section of people interested in Ireland. Approximately 1,000 people were invited and approximately 800 are expected to attend the event. The estimated cost of the event, which includes all food and beverages, is \$150 per person. The purpose of the Ireland Fund is to raise funds to support programs of peace, reconciliation, culture, education, and community development in Ireland. These programs include TeachNet Ireland, which focuses on the use of new technologies to support teachers and students in the classroom, and other educational programs. NASA is greatly interested in education, particularly as it motivates students to pursue careers in science and technology. I find that this event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g). I therefore conclude that NASA's interest in its employees attending this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may, or may appear to, improperly influence NASA employees in the performance of their official duties. NASA employees may also accept invitations for accompanying spouses or guests.

Accordingly, NASA invites and their spouses or guests may attend this event without charge.


Paul G. Pastorek