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Folder Title:

[Ireland]-American/Ireland Fund Dinner, March 16, 1993

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1397

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49	1	3	1	v

12:00 Noon - Friday, June 5, 1987

Award Ceremony iho of
LTG Colin L. Powell hosted
by German Ambassador

4645 Reservoir Rd, NW

**PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION**

**The President of the United States
American Ireland Fund
March 16, 1993**

o Acknowledgments: Speaker Foley; Sens. Mitchell, Kennedy, Dodd, and others.

o I want to congratulate your chairman, Anthony J.F.

O'Reilly [Chairman and CEO of Heinz], for what may

be the most successful dinner in the history of the

American Ireland Fund.

o And I want to congratulate the co-chairs of this dinner for the time they have donated selflessly to this cause.

[Co-chairs of the dinner are: Elizabeth Bagley, director, American Ireland Foundation; John P. Dunfey, director, American Ireland Foundation; Robert Dunfey, director, American Ireland Foundation; the Honorable Dermot Gallagher, Ambassador of Ireland; Don Keough, President, Coca-Cola; Fr. Leo O'Donovan, President, Georgetown University; Paul Quinn, chairman, American Ireland Foundation, D.C. Chapter; and Dan Rooney, President, Pittsburgh Steelers.]

o As you know, it is often remarked that, on St.

Patrick's Day, there are only two types of people --

those who are Irish and those who wish they were. I

have often been accused of having a certain gift for the

-- blarney -- although not exactly in those words.

o Now, John F. Kennedy was the first Irish Catholic to become President. But it took a Baptist from Arkansas to become the first graduate of a Catholic university to become President.

o As a younger man, I went through a period of uncertainty about whether to pursue a career in music or in politics. And so, I feel right at home with the Taoiseach [Prime Minister, pronounced "tee-shuk"] of Ireland, Mr. Albert Reynolds. I understand that he has been an exponent of one of Ireland's most popular forms of singing -- country-and-western. I am glad that Prime Minister Reynolds has pursued his political career in Ireland, because, with his many talents, he sure could have given me a run for my money in Arkansas.

o As I understand from the movie "The Commitments,"

not only country-and-western but rhythm-and-blues are

popular in Ireland. And, here in the United States, as

you know so well, Irish music and Irish musicians --

to Phil Coulter

from the Chieftains, to U2, to Van Morrison -- have

millions of devoted fans. But, tell me, who is this guy

Bono [bah-know], whom my younger staff members

like so much? I don't even know the guy's last name.

But half my staff wants me to get them his autograph.

6:45
to Recept.

o The fact that we appreciate each other's music is just one indication of the ties of kinship, culture, and common values that bind Ireland and the United States together in friendship. As you know there are 44 million Americans of Irish descent, who have contributed immeasurably to every sphere of our national life.

o In fact, the house where I live now was designed by an Irish-American, James Hoban, who also assisted in the construction of the Capitol. I understand that his initial payment for designing the White House was \$500. And that was before we took the fat out of the federal budget.

o President Kennedy said that "here on earth, God's work must truly be our own." I am proud to be here with the American Ireland Foundation because you truly are doing the Lord's work: offering hope and opportunity to all the people of Ireland; promoting peace, reconciliation, and common enterprise between Protestants and Catholics; nationalists and unionists; and supporting cultural activities, community development, employment opportunities, health care and counseling.

o And I am delighted that the government of Ireland is providing a site -- an historic castle -- for a new "Hole in the Wall Gang" camp for children with life-threatening diseases. Hillary and I visited Paul Newman's "Hole in the Wall Gang" camp here in the United States several years ago, and we were moved beyond words by what we saw.

o The American Ireland Fund is doing in Ireland what we are trying to do here in the United States: to offer opportunity, encourage responsibility, reknit the social fabric, and restore the sense of community. I am proud to support your work because it is an inspiration and a lesson for all of us -- not only those who are Irish all year 'round, but those of us who are Irish today.

[After receiving a vase with a saxophone and
shamrock.]

o Thank you for the vase with that lovely coat of arms:

the saxophone and shamrock. I can't think of anyone

who would appreciate that gift more than I -- except,

possibly, a saxophonist whom I've always admired and

who, I believe, traces his own roots to Ireland, the man

who was present "at Storyville" and at "the birth of the

cool," the great Gerry Mulligan.

EDUCATION

Convent of the Sacred Heart, Darien, Conn. (Diploma 1945)

Manhattanville College, Purchase, N.Y. (B.A. 1949)

PROFESSIONAL

VERY SPECIAL ARTS (1974 to present) Founder; Member, Board of Directors; Program Chairperson

Very Special Arts is an education affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. VSA provides opportunities for the disabled in the creative arts and has affiliates in all 50 states, serving more than 2 million children and adults with special needs; it also has affiliates in 55 other countries. Mrs. Smith has initiated the development and managed the coordination of all of the programs administered by Very Special Arts.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Member, Board of Trustees, Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation
Member, Board of Trustees, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; member of the Education Committee

Author: "Chronicles of Courage" (with George Plimpton), to be published by Random House in April 1993

PERSONAL

Born: February 20, 1928

Married: Stephen E. Smith (died 1990)

Children:

Stephen E., Jr., (35) graduate assistant in education,
Harvard University
William, (32) medical resident, University of New Mexico
Medical School
Amanda, (25) graduate student, Harvard University
Kym, (20) emergency medical technician student, Northeastern
University

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JEAN KENNEDY SMITH

Jean Kennedy Smith, the sister of President John F. Kennedy and Senator Edward M. Kennedy, has been active in public causes in her own right for many years. Born to a family which believes strongly in public service and helping others, she has dedicated herself to assisting those with disabilities.

Since 1964, she has been a member of the Board of Trustees of the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation, in Washington, D.C., which provides grants to promote awareness and advocacy in the field of mental retardation.

Since 1964, Mrs. Smith has also been a member of the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. She initiated the children's programs of the Kennedy Center; since 1974, she has served on the Center's Education Committee, and was its first chairperson. The committee has instituted numerous programs nationwide, including: the Alliance for Arts Education, a network of arts professionals and parents to include the arts in schools; model teacher training programs in the arts; a college theater festival; and the "Imagination Celebration," a series of arts festivals for children in numerous locations around the country.

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Under Mrs. Smith's leadership, and with the sponsorship of the Kennedy family, the Kennedy Center commissioned "The Bride From Pluto" by Gian Carlo Menotti, an opera for children performed at the Kennedy Center in 1982.

In 1974, she founded Very Special Arts, an educational affiliate of the Kennedy Center that provides opportunities in the creative arts for the disabled. Mrs. Smith has been chiefly responsible for the growth and success of the organization, which today has affiliates in all 50 states and 55 foreign countries.

In 1984, as part of Very Special Arts, she initiated the Young Playwrights Program, which annually produces plays written by young persons with disabilities and which draws assistance from theater experts.

In 1988, Mrs. Smith helped to launch the Very Special Arts affiliate in Ireland. In 1991, as part of the Young Playwrights Program, the affiliate produced the play, "Seconds Out," at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin. The Irish Repertory Theatre Company's production of the play will open off-Broadway in New York City on April 13, 1993. A second Irish production, "Swings and Roundabouts," opened in November 1992 in Andrews Lane Theatre in Dublin and is currently touring schools in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

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Very Special Arts hosted its first international festival in 1989 and will hold future festivals at five-year intervals. The 1989 festival took place at the Kennedy Center and formed the basis for an NBC television special, "From the Heart."

Mrs. Smith is the author, in collaboration with George Plimpton, of a book on Very Special Arts, "Chronicles of Courage," to be published by Random House in April 1993.

Mrs. Smith has been honored with numerous awards, including:

-- Volunteer of the Year Award, People-to-People Committee for the Handicapped (1979);

-- Margaret Mead Humanitarian Award, Council of Cerebral Palsy Auxiliaries (1981);

-- Jefferson Award for Outstanding Public Service, American Institute for Public Service, Washington, D.C. (1985);

-- Spirit of Achievement Award, New York Chapter, National Women's Division, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Yeshiva University, Bronx, N.Y. (1986);

-- Humanitarian Award, Capital Children's Museum, Washington, D.C. (1992);

-- 1st Recipient, Secretary's Award, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; presented by Secretary Derwinski for service in the arts to veterans (1992).

Mrs. Smith, 65, a graduate of Manhattanville College in Purchase, N.Y., lives in New York City. She has four children -- Stephen, 35, a graduate assistant in education at Harvard University; William, 32, a medical resident at the University of New Mexico Medical School; Amanda, 25, a graduate student in English at Harvard University; and Kym, 20, who is in training to be an emergency medical technician at Northeastern University.

JEAN KENNEDY SMITH

RIES

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Through her work with Very Special Arts' international component, established in 1984, Jean Kennedy Smith has visited numerous countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East, and Latin America in recent years. Highlights of these visits include the following:

EUROPE

Ireland (several visits), to assist in the development and strengthening of Very Special Arts programs and to participate in the organization's first international Young Playwrights Program, held in 1991. President Mary Robinson is the patron of Very Special Arts Ireland, which is also supported by the Ministry of Education and other government agencies. In addition, over many years, Mrs. Smith has made numerous personal visits to Ireland and accompanied President John F. Kennedy on his well-known trip to Ireland in 1963.

Germany (1990), to participate in a special ceremony in Berlin marking the fall of the Berlin Wall and the anniversary of President Kennedy's visit there. She also met with the U.S. Ambassador, representatives of the East and West German governments, and arts and disabilities organizations in Bonn and Berlin to discuss the establishment of a Very Special Arts program.

Czech Republic (1991), to meet in Prague with Olga Havel, representatives of the Olga Havel Foundation, government officials, arts advocates, and the U.S. Ambassador. The visit resulted in the establishment of a Very Special Arts program. Mrs. Smith became a member of the Board of the Olga Havel Foundation in the United States in 1990; the foundation provides resources and technical advice to organizations which help persons with disabilities.

The Netherlands (1987), to attend the third national Very Special Arts Festival in Slagharen, and take part in ceremonies hosted by the World Veterans Federation, to dedicate a statue of President Kennedy.

U.S.S.R. (1989), to participate in meetings in Moscow and Leningrad as part of a U.S. delegation of educators to encourage special education and arts education exchanges.

Denmark (1990), to participate in the presentation of the EUCREA/Very Special Arts Awards in Vejle for international leaders in the arts.

Italy (several visits), including a Very Special Arts Festival at the Vatican in 1985, at which Pope John Paul II presided, and a 1987 conference in Rome of international directors of Very Special Arts.

France (several visits), to participate in Very Special Arts activities and festivals in Paris and Fontainebleau.

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Belgium (1985), to attend the opening of the Very Special Arts Festival in Brussels.

Austria (1983), to speak at the Austrian-American Conference on Arts and Education, and at the European Subconference on Arts and the Handicapped.

In addition, Mrs. Smith has traveled to Poland and Spain; she has also made numerous visits to the United Kingdom, beginning in the 1930's when her father was Ambassador to the Court of St. James.

ASIA

China (1988), to participate in a Very Special Arts delegation to an International Conference on Special Education, held in Beijing and hosted by Deng Pufang and the Child Welfare League. Mrs. Smith was a featured speaker, and Very Special Arts programs were highlighted at the conference.

Japan (1988), to Tokyo in connection with the above trip to China. Mrs. Smith has made two subsequent visits to Japan for Very Special Arts programs in Kyoto and Osaka.

Taiwan (1991), to attend the first International Very Special Arts Festival, sponsored by the affiliate in Taipei. During this visit, Mrs. Smith met with the country's President, Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and officials of the American Institute for Taiwan.

AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Morocco (1988), to attend a Very Special Arts training program in Tangier for Peace Corps volunteers.

Egypt (1986), to meet with the Ministry of Social Affairs in Cairo. The visit resulted in the establishment of a Very Special Arts program.

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

Brazil (1986), to attend meetings in Brasilia to develop a Very Special Arts program.

Mexico (1989), to meet in Mexico City with Cecilia Occelli de Salinas, the wife of President Salinas, and to assist in the successful initiation of a Very Special Arts program.

Venezuela (1986), to attend that country's first national Very Special Arts Festival in Caracas.

March 17, 1993

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Ricki Seidman, Nancy Soderberg
FROM: Carter Wilkie, Communications Research
SUBJECT: Proposed parade talking points

"Certainly, I would like to see a more inclusive America, where everyone has a seat at the table. But there are complicated questions about whether one parade is privately sponsored and religiously affiliated or whether another is publicly organized."

"There are also questions about whether people may participate as individuals or as a group."

~~"We've had decisions made by judges with all of the information on those different local cases, and I am not in a position to question those decisions."~~

~~"I believe that America is becoming a more inclusive Nation, but belonging to a tolerant society, I might add, also means that we should not get into the position of questioning others' religious views."~~

These situations can only be decided on a case by case basis.

NEW YORK

if in NY the judges have decided.
According to Kevin Thurm and Jennifer O'Connor, the campaign took no position on the New York parade last year. Research found no quotes from Clinton on this matter in Nexis.

The New York Parade was the subject of a "60 Minutes" piece Sunday night. A judge has ruled that because the parade is privately organized, the sponsors may decide which groups participate. After being supported by Mayor Dinkins last year, the "Irish Lesbians and Gays" will march in their own separate parade this year. The Ancient Order of Hibernians says that homosexuals may march in their parade as individuals, but that they may not march as an interest group behind a banner that is in conflict with Church teaching. They say that people in the parade should keep their private lives to themselves. Judges have kept Muslim protesters from Hasidic events in NY before.

BOSTON

The Boston parade coincides with a local public holiday, Evacuation Day, commemorating the British retreat from Boston in the Revolutionary War. A judge has ruled that homosexual groups may participate in this public event. The parade route is through South Boston, a very self-protective, conservative, Irish enclave that angrily resisted forced school busing in the 1970s. Mayor Flynn (of South Boston himself) supports the participation of all groups, provided that they adhere to the rules of the sponsors applied to every organization equally.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 16, 1993

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT AMERICAN IRELAND FOUNDATION DINNER

The Capital Hilton
Washington, D.C.

6:43 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for once again participating in the great American charade, designed to convince people that the President has more authority than the Speaker of the House. (Laughter.) Now, if I were a prime minister, I wouldn't have to worry about that. (Laughter.)

Mr. Prime Minister, it's a delight to welcome you to our Nation's Capital, and I look forward to our visit tomorrow. I want to congratulate Chairman O'Reilly. Let me ask you: Do you like the purple? (Laughter.) I want you to understand that is not royal purple. That is a substitute, because he made the ultimate sacrifice; he gave his President the green. (Applause.)

I want to thank all those who worked so hard to make this dinner successful. It's often remarked that on St. Patrick's Day we're all Irish, or we wish we were. I am actually part Irish, and I have often been accused of having a certain gift for blarney -- (laughter) -- although those were not the words used last year when that was said.

I'm glad to see Senator Kennedy and Congressman Kennedy and Mrs. Smith in the audience. But, you know, President Kennedy was the first Irish Catholic to become president. But, though a Baptist from Arkansas, I'm the first graduate of a Catholic university to become President. (Applause.) I'm glad to see Father O'Donovan out there -- my president -- of Georgetown. Thank you. (Applause.)

As a younger man, I went through a period of intense uncertainty about whether I should pursue a career in music or a career in politics. I was happy to learn that the Prime Minister, whom you affectionately called the Taoiseach -- you know, I want the members of the Congress to learn that. I like that -- the chieftain. It has a good feeling. (Laughter.)

He's been an exponent of one of Ireland's most popular forms of native music -- country and western. (Laughter.) I'm glad he pursued his political career in Ireland, because if he had chosen to come to Arkansas, he might have defeated me with that sort of background. (Laughter.)

You know, Irish music has made almost as much of a contribution to modern life as Irish politicians. From the Chieftains to Phil Coulter to Van Morrison to that wonderful group, U-2 that played such a major role in trying to get the young people in America to go and vote. The first time I heard that their lead singer was named Bono, I asked what his last name was. Then I found out he didn't have a last name. Then, after I spent an hour with him, I discovered he didn't need one. (Laughter.)

You know, there are 44 million Americans of Irish descent -- that is, those who are telling the truth and those who

MORE

lie, which qualifies them -- (laughter) -- who have contributed immeasurably to every sphere of our life. In fact, the house that I now live in, which either makes me the resident of America's finest public housing or, as some of my critics say, the crown jewel of the federal penal system, was designed by James Hoban, a famous Irishman who designed the White House based on a model of a magnificent house in Ireland.

I thought I would tell you this, for those of you who don't know, since President Kennedy once said at a dinner of Nobel laureates that it was the most distinguished array of brainpower ever gathered in the White House since Thomas Jefferson down there alone -- (laughter) -- James Hoban defeated Thomas Jefferson for the design of the White House. Jefferson submitted anonymously a design for the White House, and the people making the decision -- basically George Washington and a few of his friends -- (laughter) -- concluded that Hoban was superior to Jefferson. (Laughter and applause.)

When President Kennedy said that "here on earth, God's work is truly our own." Whenever I'm asked to speak in a church I say that. It captured for me more than anything else what the essence of public service is about. The American Ireland Foundation embodies that phrase as well as any group of Americans, offering hope and opportunity to all the people of Ireland, promoting peace, reconciliation and common enterprise between Catholics and Protestants, nationalists and unionists, in promoting cultural activities, community development, employment opportunities in health care and counseling.

I am absolutely delighted, I must say, that the government of Ireland is now providing a site, an historic castle for the new Hole in the Wall Gang Camp for children with life-threatening diseases. I'm glad to see Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward here tonight and I can tell you that Hillary and I visited the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp in Connecticut a couple of years ago, and I was moved beyond words by what I saw there. And I thank everyone who is responsible for giving the children of Ireland this remarkable opportunity. (Applause.)

The American Ireland Fund is doing in Ireland what we are trying to do here in the United States -- to offer opportunity, to encourage responsibility, to reknit the social fabric badly frayed by the pressures of modern life. And to restore a sense of community without which it is difficult for people to proceed with their individual and family lives.

I'm proud to support your work, because it's important, it's an inspiration, it's a lesson for all of us -- not only for those who are Irish all year long, but for those who are just Irish for 24 hours a year. I thank the Irish Americans who have worked with me, particularly in the last 16 months to try to help me learn more about Ireland, as well as about the problems and promise of Irish Americans here at home, and I look forward to working with all of you in the days and weeks and years ahead.

I hope that we will always be able to bring to our labors the remarkable spirit I sense in this room tonight, and never lose the sense of humor which has become so associated with this wonderful holiday. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

END

6:55 P.M. EST

February 28, 1993

MEMORANDUM TO MARCIA HALE

ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR SCHEDULING & ADVANCE

FROM: JENNIFER O'CONNOR

SUBJECT: THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS TO THE NEW YORK IRISH COMMUNITY
DURING THE CAMPAIGN

I. American Ireland Fund

I checked with a number of NY Irish community activists & the Irish community liaison staff of Mayor Dinkins. Their universal assessment of the American-Irish Fund is that it is non-controversial. It is comprised mainly of wealthy Irish-Americans and it donates funds to a variety of cultural, children's and other projects. It is mainstream and has never been associated in any way with the IRA. It is also innocuous enough that it doesn't irritate the radicals.

II. Campaign statements

On April 5, 1992, then Governor Clinton addressed a group of Irish New York elected officials and heads of Irish organizations. Below is a summary of the substantive policy statements he made. I have a transcript, let me know if you want a copy.

A. Special Envoy

In answer to Mayor Ray Flynn's question, "Would you, as President of the United States, appoint a special envoy to Northern Ireland...?", Governor Clinton responded, "The short answer to your question is yes." The Governor expanded to say he believed the US was too reluctant to engage itself in a positive way because of its relationship with Great Britain. He also said we should get the United Nations involved in finding a resolution in Northern Ireland.

The Governor said specifically that he would use the special envoy and the United Nations to focus on verifiable instances of human rights abuses as documented by Helsinki Watch & Amnesty International, but he did not say how the US should pressure Britain about human rights abuses.

He said he would raise issues of human rights abuse with the British Prime Minister.

B. Visa Denial

Gerry Adams, the President of Sinn Fein (political arm of the IRA) and also a member of the British Parliament has been repeatedly denied a visa to come to the US.

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In response to a question about his view on this, Governor Clinton said "I would support a visa for Gerry Adams, and I would support a visa for any other properly elected official who was part of a government recognized by the United States."

D. Joe Dougherty

Joe Dougherty, an IRA member convicted of murder who escaped & was arrested in the US, was extradited to Britain last year. Though several US court decisions said he should have been given an asylum hearing, the US Dept. of Justice under Bush intervened and extradited him without allowing him a hearing.

Governor Clinton said he believed Dougherty should have been given a hearing because the courts ruled that he should have gotten one. He said he believed the US should uphold its own laws and that the Justice Dept. should not circumvent US laws for political purposes. The Governor was careful to say that if an asylum hearing found that Dougherty should have been returned to Britain, then he would support returning him to Britain.

D. MacBride Principles

The Governor was asked if he would encourage US states that had not yet adopted the MacBride Principles to do so. (The Principles govern investment in businesses that do business in Northern Ireland. They are patterned on the Sullivan Principles which do the same for investment in South Africa.)

The Governor said he liked and believed in the Principles and that he would encourage his successor as Governor of Arkansas to adopt them. He said that as President, he would encourage all Governors to look at embracing the Principles.

E. Immigration

When asked if he supported a more open immigration policy, the Governor said he liked the Morrison Visa program and would support other similar measures.

SUMMARY

The only promises are that he would appoint a special envoy, discuss human rights abuses with John Major, encourage his successor in Arkansas and other Governors to look at the MacBride Principles.

If we're planning on appointing an envoy, the President could mention it during the week of St. Patrick's Day.

I don't know if he discussed abuses with Major.

If Ireland fits the message for the week of March 17th, it would make sense to address the MacBride Principles in the President's radio address for that week.

OFFICE OF SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY
315 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-2101

Facsimile Transmission Request

Date Sent: _____

To: Nancy Soderberg

Company: _____

From: Trina Y. Vargo

Phone Number: (202) 224-2638

Department: Foreign Policy

Time: _____

Number of Pages (including this one): 5

Nancy

This is the final which we
will ~~be put in~~ put in tomorrow
Congressional Record. Please share it
with anyone you need to.

Trina

EDWARD M. KENNEDY
MASSACHUSETTS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 16, 1993

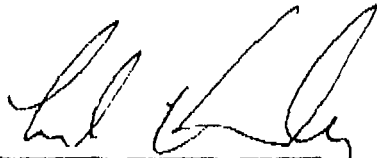
Dear Colleague:

Attached is the annual St. Patrick's Day Statement issued by the Friends of Ireland in Congress in support of peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland.

The Friends of Ireland is a bipartisan group of Senators and Representatives opposed to violence and terrorism in Northern Ireland and dedicated to developing a United States policy that promotes a just, lasting and peaceful settlement of the conflict. The continuing tragedy there has cost more than 3,000 lives over the past twenty four years, and has brought great devastation and instability to the region.

We hope that you will support the 1993 Friends of Ireland Statement.

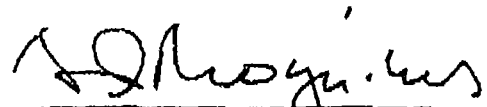
Sincerely,



Edward M. Kennedy



Christopher J. Dodd



Daniel Patrick Moynihan



Claiborne Pell

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St. Patrick's Day, 1993

On this St. Patrick's Day, the Friends of Ireland in the United States Congress join with all Irish Americans, and indeed Irish people everywhere, in celebrating Irish heritage and in calling for renewed efforts to achieve peace, reconciliation, and justice in Northern Ireland. We welcome the Prime Minister of Ireland, An Taoiseach Albert Reynolds, to Washington and look forward to working closely with him, with the Deputy Prime Minister, Tanaiste Dick Spring, and with their British counterparts, in seeking ways to achieve these ends over the coming years.

We also take special note of the recent gains made by the women of Ireland. The historic election of President Mary Robinson in 1990, the victories of twenty women in the recent parliamentary elections, and the appointment of the first woman to the board of directors of the International Fund for Ireland are all developments which will enhance the important role of women in the political life of Ireland.

Our concern for a peaceful and just solution in Northern Ireland springs not only from our personal commitment to Ireland but also from our awareness of the exceptional contributions that generations of Irish men and women have made to the building of this nation. The recent census records 44 million Americans who claim Ireland as the home of their forebears. It reminds us how significant an impact that small island has had on our nation and how disproportionate it has been to its size. It is a source of great sadness, therefore, that this celebration of our common Irish heritage is overshadowed by the continuing tragedy of violence in Northern Ireland.

On this day of Irish affection and friendship, the Friends of Ireland warmly welcome and endorse last year's round-table talks between the Irish and British governments and the constitutional parties in Northern Ireland. We reiterate our full support for the earliest possible renewal of such talks, and their ambitious objective of bringing about a new beginning for relationships within Northern Ireland, within Ireland, and between Ireland and the United Kingdom. The people of Northern Ireland today are crying out for an end to the bitterness and hatred of the past. They demand a political agreement that can bring an end to the violence. They know there can be no real political progress without genuine dialogue between those of all traditions who seek a constitutional way forward towards solving the problems of Ireland.

We unreservedly condemn the violence of the IRA and Loyalist paramilitary groups. Violence begets only more violence and, with it, a cycle of reprisal and revenge. We abhor the violence perpetrated by terrorists through their indiscriminate bombing and shooting campaigns and the misery they bring to ordinary people's lives. Such violence fosters division, bitterness, and distrust. It

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seeks to destroy the bridges between the two communities which are an essential avenue to a peaceful political compact by Irish men and women of all political persuasions or allegiances. We are convinced that terrorism will never bring justice and peace and so urge all terrorists to lay aside their arms if they truly wish to achieve their goals.

While recognizing that the primary responsibility for resolving the problems of Northern Ireland lies with the Irish and British governments as well as the constitutional parties in Northern Ireland, the Friends believe that the United States can play a constructive role in advancing the political process. We enthusiastically welcome the interest that President Clinton has shown in Irish affairs, and we join with him in offering our support as the people of Ireland search together to find a way forward. We share the view of the Taoiseach that the constructive interest and support of the President and Congress of the United States has the potential to be uniquely helpful. There should be thorough consultation to ensure that this concern is structured in the most effective and helpful manner possible.

The Friends of Ireland attach great importance to the continued and active implementation of the Anglo-Irish Agreement by the two governments. The Agreement, and in particular the role in Northern Ireland assigned to the Irish Government under it, has introduced a new dynamic into the situation through its effort to give formal recognition to the legitimacy and status of the political, economic, and social aspirations of the nationalist community. The Agreement should remain in force until transcended by new arrangements acceptable to the two governments and the constitutional parties in Northern Ireland.

We also continue to have serious concerns involving human rights, most particularly the murder of Irish men, women, and children from terrorist attacks. In addition, Amnesty International and Helsinki Watch have documented incidents involving the use of lethal force by the security forces, collusion between these forces and loyalists paramilitary groups, harassment of young nationalists by the British Army, and the denial of basic civil liberties. Such abuses must end, specific cases of abuse must be independently investigated, and those responsible must be punished.

Confidence in the forces of law and order, and in the impartial administration of justice, is fundamental to the construction of a just and peaceful society in Northern Ireland. We strongly urge the British Government, acting pursuant to consultations in the Anglo-Irish Conference, to put in place a series of measures to respond to the lack of confidence which so clearly exists in the nationalist community. A first step in this direction would be to ensure that all military patrols which come into contact with the public are accompanied by experienced and trained police officers, as agreed in the 1985 arrangements between the two governments.

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The British Government should also work to address the recommendations made in reports by Amnesty International, Helsinki Watch, and most recently, by the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, and the Committee on the Administration of Justice, which is based in Northern Ireland.

In addition, an end to discrimination in employment would help greatly to establish hope and confidence among the nationalist community, especially the young people. We are encouraged by the terms of the 1989 Fair Employment Act and support its implementation with all necessary powers to redress decades of discrimination.

The Friends are convinced that new investment from overseas can also be a positive catalyst for change. We are very pleased that Congressional support for the International Fund for Ireland has enabled it to play a constructive role in economic development, especially in the disadvantaged areas of both Northern Ireland and the border counties of the Republic. In fostering economic and social progress, and building a record of success through cooperation and incentive, the Fund is providing a measure of real hope for those who have suffered the most from the conflict in Northern Ireland. It has, most importantly, become a concrete force for reconciliation and healing through the creation of thousands of permanent jobs and with them, a constructive alternative for those who otherwise might have chosen the path of violence.

We believe the International Fund for Ireland with its independent Board jointly appointed by both governments can be a model for other efforts of cooperation and confidence-building between the two great traditions and the two political communities of Ireland. We welcome such initiatives that offer the prospect of reinforcing reconciliation among the Irish people.

We are hopeful that the process of healing and reconciliation can be advanced in Ireland over the next twelve months. It is now critical that both communities reach out to, and further reassure, one another. The Irish and British governments have the central responsibility to encourage and develop this process. In doing so, they will have our full and enthusiastic support. As Friends of Ireland, it is our dearest wish to see all of Ireland at peace, reconciled, and newly energized, free from the dissensions of the past, playing its full, distinctive, and dynamic part on the European and world stage.

On this St. Patrick's Day, the Friends of Ireland in the United States Congress join friends of Ireland everywhere in urging all parties to make special efforts this year to bring about peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION