

NORTHERN IRELAND

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SIR R ARMSTRONG
DIO } CABINET OFFICE

PS/ NO 10 DOWNING STREET (3)

RESIDENT CLERK

14.11.8

FLASH

M

CONFIDENTIAL

FM WASHINGTON

TO FLASH FCO

TELNO 3164

OF 151655Z NOVEMBER 85

INFO IMMEDIATE DUBLIN, NIO(L), NIO(R), BIS NEW YORK, EC POSTS,

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ANGLO/IRISH AGREEMENT.

1. THE PRESIDENT AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES GAVE A JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE WHITE HOUSE THIS MORNING, WITHIN MINUTES OF THE SIGNATURE OF THE ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT, EXPRESSING THEIR STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE AGREEMENT, CONDEMNING THE CONTINUATION OF VIOLENCE AND URGING AMERICANS NOT TO SUPPORT IT, AND ADVOCATING AMERICAN INVESTMENT AND FORE-SHADOWING AMERICAN HELP. THE IRISH AMBASSADOR AND I WERE PRESENT WITH SECRETARY SHULTZ, CHIEF OF STAFF REGAN AND NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER MCFARLANE. MY IRISH COLLEAGUE TOLD ME THAT THE IRISH TIMES CORRESPONDENT PRESENT WAS CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE IRA IN THE 50'S.

2. AFTER THE CEREMONY I THANKED BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND SPEAKER MOST WARMLY ON BEHALF OF HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT, AND SAID THAT THEIR PROMPT AND UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT WOULD BE MUCH APPRECIATED IN LONDON. THE SPEAKER RECALLED WITH PLEASURE THE PRIME MINISTER'S SESSION WITH HIM IN HIS ROOM ON THE HILL WITH THE DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN LEADERS OF THE HOUSE LAST FEBRUARY AND SENT HIS WARM GOOD WISHES. "SHE'S A GREAT LADY" HE SAID.

3. WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAID BEFORE THE TELEVISION CAMERAS AND WRITING PRESS WAS A REDUCED VERSION OF THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT (SEE MIFT, WHICH CONTAINS PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT. TRANSCRIPTS, INCLUDING SPEAKER'S REMARKS, WILL FOLLOW.)

4.. THE ADMINISTRATION HAVE CERTAINLY COME GOOD ON THEIR UNDERTAKING TO SUPPORT TO THE AGREEMENT SIGNED BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND TAIOSEACH. YOU MAY THEREFORE WISH TO RECOMMEND TO THE PRIME MINISTER THAT SHE SEND A BRIEF MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION TO THE PRESIDENT AND INDEED TO THE SPEAKER AS WELL. IN VIEW OF PAST AND LIKELY FUTURE ROWS, WE MIGHT AS WELL MAKE THE BEST USE WE CAN OF HARMONY ON THIS ISSUE.

WRIGHT

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