



FILE

JA

cc: FCO

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

20 November, 1985

Dear Mr. Speaker

I should like to thank you for the statement you made at your joint press conference with President Reagan on 15 November in support of the Anglo-Irish Agreement which Garret Fitzgerald and I had signed only a few minutes earlier.

It will be a great help in establishing solid and widespread support for the agreement to be able to point to your own commendation of it, and that of many prominent members of Congress.

I noted your generous reference to the possibility of financial and economic assistance for Northern Ireland and the Republic. I of course welcome what you said. We shall be in touch with the Administration to hear more of the possibilities for this.

With warm good wishes,

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Mr. Thomas P. O'Neill Jnr.

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UNCLASSIFIED
FM WASHINGTON
TO DESKBY 151900Z FCO
TELNO 3169
OF 151900Z NOVEMBER 85
INFO IMMEDIATE BIS NEW YORK, DUBLIN, NIO(L), NIO(B), CGS IN THE
USA

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MY TELNOS 3164-5: ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE SPEAKER'S STATEMENT ON WHICH HE
DREW IN HIS REMARKS AT THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS CONFERENCE:

REGINS: THANK YOU MR PRESIDENT FOR INVITING ME TO JOIN YOU IN
EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE HISTORIC ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT REACHED
TODAY. I AM DELIGHTED TO BE HERE.

I CONGRATULATE THE LEADERS OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF IRELAND
AND GREAT BRITAIN FOR TAKING THIS IMPORTANT AND COURAGEOUS STEP
OF CONSTRUCTING A FRAMEWORK FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION IN
NORTHERN IRELAND.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE AGREEMENT TODAY DEMONSTRATES IN
UNMISTAKABLE FASHION THAT THE WAY FORWARD IN NORTHERN IRELAND IS
NOT THROUGH THE BULLET AND THE BOMB BUT RATHER THROUGH DIRECT
NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE FREELY ELECTED LEADERS OF TWO GREAT
WESTERN DEMOCRACIES.

I AM HOPEFUL THAT THIS AGREEMENT WILL PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR
BUILDING A BRIDGE OF HOPE AND RECONCILIATION BETWEEN THE TWO
GREAT TRADITIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND. WE KNOW FROM OUR EXPERIENCE
IN AMERICA THAT DIVERSITY CAN BE A SOURCE OF STRENGTH IN A
SOCIETY RATHER THAN A SOURCE OF DIVISION.

BEGINNING TODAY MUCH MUST BE DONE TO BUILD A LASTING PEACE IN
NORTHERN IRELAND. BECAUSE OF THIS, I AM PLEASED TO HEAR THE
PRESIDENT REAFFIRM THE COMMITMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO HELP
PROMOTE PEACE AND RECONCILIATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND IN A CONCRETE
WAY.

I CAN ASSURE THE PRESIDENT THAT AS SPEAKER I WILL DO EVERY-
THING IN MY POWER TO SEE THAT SUCH A COMMITMENT, INCLUDING
APPROPRIATE FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, IS HONORED BY THE
CONGRESS AS SWIFTLY AND AS FULLY AS POSSIBLE. I AM SURE THAT MY
COLLEAGUES SENATORS KENNEDY AND MOYNIHAN AND CONGRESSMEN BOB
MICHEL, TOM FOLEY AND JOE MCDADE WILL JOIN WITH ME AND THE MANY
FRIENDS OF IRELAND ON CAPITOL HILL TO HELP MAKE THIS IMPORTANT
AMERICAN CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE, JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION IN
NORTHERN IRELAND. ENDS

2. TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWS BY BAG.

WRIGHT

NORTHERN IRELAND PS/MR EGGAR
LIMITED PS/PUS
RID MR DEREK THOMAS
NAD SIR W HARDING
INFO D MR GOODALL
WED MR BARRINGTON
MAED MR O'NEILL
NEWS D MR SAMUEL
PUSD MR D C THOMAS
SCD MR LONG
RES D BUCKINGHAM PALACE
PS
PS/LADY YOUNG

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MR POWELL

Anglo-Irish Agreement: the Reactions of
President Reagan and the Speaker of the
House of Representatives

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C
President Reagan and Speaker O'Neill gave a joint press conference within minutes of the signature of the Anglo-Irish Agreement, and made warm statements of welcome. Sir Oliver Wright has recommended that the Prime Minister should send brief messages of appreciation to the President and to the Speaker.

2. I attach drafts for such messages, which have been prepared in co-operation with FCO and NIO officials and the Embassy in Washington.

C L G Mallaby

18 November 1985

Copy:

Mr Stark
Mr Appleyard, FCO
Mr Daniell, NIO

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Draft message from the Prime Minister to the President of the United States

prompt ad

was very grateful

I want to thank you most warmly for the your
 generous statement you made on 15 November
 about the new Anglo-Irish Agreement. I was
 very grateful that you spoke in such warm
 terms, and within minutes of the ceremony when
 Garret FitzGerald and I had signed the Agreement.
 Your joint press conference with Speaker O'Neill
 was widely featured in the media here, including
 the first televised reports on the Agreement.

received here & will help us establish the as further evidence of the very widespread support which we remember commands. We still have very difficulties to overcome, particularly need to

It is a great source of strength for me to have your public support for our efforts to promote stability in Northern Ireland through democracy, dialogue and reconciliation and for our determination to defeat those who cause suffering through violence.

I believe that the Anglo-Irish Agreement has the support of a very large majority in Parliament and in the public in the United Kingdom. My major purpose now will be to bring home to unionists that the Agreement can do good for all the people of Northern Ireland.

does not threaten them but rather

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I noted in particular ^{your} ~~the~~ remark in ~~your~~ statement about the United States lending practical support to the Anglo-Irish Agreement. ^{Speaker's} I also ~~noted~~ the reference in ~~the Speaker's~~ statement to financial and economic assistance. We are in contact with the Irish Government about the possible establishment of a fund to ^{manage} ~~handle~~ any contributions which might be made by the United States and other countries. We shall make contact soon with your officials about arranging trilateral discussions.

in all our thoughts during
your meeting with Mr.
Crotcher. ~~As always you have~~
~~my full support~~ I look forward
to seeing you in Brussels as
Newry.
with warm regards.

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Draft message from the Prime Minister
to Speaker O'Neill

I should like to ^{thank you} ~~express my appreciation~~
for the statement you made at your joint press
conference with President Reagan on 15 November
in support of the Anglo-Irish Agreement which
Garret FitzGerald and I had signed only a few
minutes earlier.

~~It is a great source of strength to know~~
~~that many prominent members of the Congress of~~
~~the United States, and in particular you personally,~~
~~support the efforts which Dr FitzGerald and I are~~
~~making to achieve progress towards peace through~~
~~dialogue and reconciliation, and in total rejection~~
~~of the bullet and the bomb.~~

*It will be a great help in
establishing solid & widespread support for the
Agreement
to be able to point to your own
Commendation of it and help of many
prominent members of Congress.*

I noted your generous reference to the
possibility of financial and economic assistance
for ^{Northern} Ireland North and South. ^{the Republic} I of course
welcome what you said. We shall be in touch
with the Administration to ^{learn more of the} ~~arrange discussions~~
~~on this aspect.~~ *possibilities for this.*

With warm good wishes.

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Thomas P. O'Neill Jr
Speaker of the House of
Representatives