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Last Updated: 11/02/2023

Presidential Remarks:
LINCHEON WITH FRIME MINISTER FITZGERALD

MR. PRIME MINISTER, MRS. FITZGERALD, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

ARE TO HAVE YOU AND MRS. FITZGERALD HERE
TODAY, MR. PRIME MINISTER. I KNOW YOU'VE
BEEN TO AMERICA A GOOD DEAL AND YOU ARE WELL
ACQUAINTED WITH US. BUT WE ARE VERY PROUD
THAT YOU COULD BE OUR GUEST ON YOUR FIRST
VISIT HERE AS PRIME MINISTER.

AND WE'RE ESPECIALLY HAPPY TO HAVE YOU VISITING AT SUCH AN APPROPRIATE MOMENT.

TOMORROW IS A GREAT DAY IN AMERICA, A DAY OF BAGPIPES AND SHAMROCKS, A DAY WHEN EVERYONE IS IRISH OR, AS THE SAYING HAS IT, WISHES THEY WERE.

IN THE UNITED STATES, ESPECIALLY, THE IMPACT OF THE EMERALD ISLE ON OUR CULTURE AND HISTORY IS ENORMOUS.

21202655 1120 CO073 50003 5P FG006-11 PRO05-02 AMERICA IS TODAY, BECAUSE OF THE IRISH, A
RICHER, BRIGHTER, FREER, AND, YES, A BIT
NOISIER COUNTRY THAN IT OTHERWISE WOULD HAVE
BEEN. VIRTUALLY ALL AMERICANS FEEL A SURGE
OF PRIDE WHEN THEY HEAR EXPRESSIONS LIKE THE
"FIGHTING 69TH," OR THE "FIGHTING IRISH OF
NOTRE DAME." AND SO MANY OF OUR GREAT
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THE AMERICAN NAVY, JOHN BARRY, TO OUR FIRST
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THE GREAT TENOR, JOHN MCCORMACK, TO A COUPLE
OF PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND, YES,
EVEN TO THE CURRENT SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE.

IN FACT, THE SECRET WISH DISCLOSED THE OTHER DAY BY MY FRIEND, TIP O'NEILL, IS AN INDICATION OF THE HOLD IRELAND HAS ON ALL OF US HERE IN THE STATES. THIS IS A NATION WHERE THE SPEAKER OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ASPIRES TO SOMEDAY BE AMBASSADOR TO IRELAND.

MR. PRIME MINISTER, I WAS EXPLAINING TO TIP ONLY A FEW MOMENTS AGO WHY I THOUGHT THAT APPOINTMENT WAS IMPOSSIBLE. AND PERHAPS, KNOWING YOUR COUNTRYMEN AS YOU DO, YOU'LL AGREE WITH ME. TIP, THE IRISH AREN'T LOOKING FOR SPEAKERS THEY'RE LOOKING FOR LISTENERS.

WELL, MR. PRIME MINISTER, THE JOSHING
WE DO HERE IS IN THE BEST IRISH TRADITION—
IT MAKES LIGHT OF WHAT ARE SOMETIMES SERIOUS
POLITICAL DIFFERENCES. BUT I THINK THERE IS
ONE POINT ON WHICH THE SPEAKER, SENATOR
KENNEDY, MYSELF AND THE OTHER IRISH AMERICAN
LEADERS HERE ARE UNITED OUR ADMIRATION FOR
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AND STABILITY TO IRELAND. WE SUPPORT YOUR
PERSONAL MISSION IN AMERICA TO END THE
TRAGICALLY MISGUIDED SUPPORT OF SOME HERE
FOR TERRORIST ELEMENTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

YOU KNOW, MR. PRIME MINISTER, I'VE BEEN TOLD BY ONE OF YOUR COUNTRYMEN THAT THE REAGAN FAMILY LINE GOES BACK AS FAR AS THE GREAT 11TH CENTURY WARRIOR KING, BRIAN BORU.

IF TRUE, I'M EXCEEDINGLY PROUD. BUT,

PERHAPS LIKE YOU, I SOMETIMES WONDER WHAT

OUR BRAVE ANCESTORS THOSE WHO FOUGHT SO

GALLANTLY OVER SO MANY CENTURIES AGAINST

SUCH HOPELESS ODDS WHAT THEY WOULD SAY

ABOUT THE VALOR OF PEOPLE WHO COMMIT ACTS OF

VIOLENCE AND PREY ON THE INNOCENT, SOMETIMES

MAIMING AND KILLING WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

YOUR WORDS HAVE BEEN VERY DIRECT ON
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REMINDED THOSE IN THIS COUNTRY WHO PROVIDE
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THAT THEY ARE ASSISTING IN VIOLENCE AND
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MAJORITY OF IRISH AMERICANS JOIN YOU TODAY
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NOW, MAY I ASK ALL OF YOU HERE TO JOIN ME IN A TOAST TO OUR FRIENDS, PRIME MINISTER FITZGERALD, AND TO THE WARMEST AND BEST OF FRIENDSHIPS, IRELAND AND THE UNITED STATES'.

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1984 MAR 15 PM 6: 22

LUNCHEON WITH PRIME MINISTER FITZGERALD

MR. PRIME MINISTER, MRS. FITZGERALD, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

I WANT TO SAY HOW DELIGHTED NANCY AND I ARE TO HAVE YOU AND MRS. FITZGERALD HERE TODAY, MR. PRIME MINISTER. I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN TO AMERICA A GOOD DEAL AND YOU ARE WELL ACQUAINTED WITH US. BUT WE ARE VERY PROUD THAT YOU COULD BE OUR GUEST ON YOUR FIRST VISIT HERE AS PRIME MINISTER.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

TE:	3/15/84	ACTION/CONC	URRENCE/C	OMMENT DUE BY:		
BJECT:	DRAFT PRESI	DENTIAL RE	MARKS:	LUNCHEON WITH	PRIME MINISTER	
	FITZGERALD	(3/13 - 4:	30 p.m.)		
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VICE PRESIDENT				McFARLANE		Ţ
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BAKE	R			MURPHY		
DEAV	ER			OGLESBY		đ
STOCI	KMAN			ROGERS		
DARM	IAN		P USS	SPEAKES		T
FELDS	TEIN			SVAHN		Į,
FIELD	ING			VERSTANDIG		
FULLE	R			WHITTLESEY		
HERRI	NGTON			TUTWILER		
HICKE	Y			WIRTHLIN HENKEL		L
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MARKS:						
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ESPONSE	<u> </u>					

Richard G. Darman Assistant to the President Ext. 2702 PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: LUNCHEON WITH PRIME MINISTER FITZGERALD FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 1984

Mr. Prime Minister, Mrs. FitzGerald, ladies and gentlemen.

I want to say how delighted Nancy and I are to have you and Mrs. FitzGerald here today, Mr. Prime Minister. I know you've been to America a good deal and you are well acquainted with us. But we are very proud that you could be our guest on your first visit here as Prime Minister.

And we're especially happy to have you visiting at such an appropriate moment. Tomorrow is a great day in America, a day of bagpipes and shamrocks, a day when everyone is Irish or, as the saying has it, wishes they were Irish.

In the United States, especially, the impact of the Emerald Isle on our culture and history is enormous. America is today, because of the Irish, a richer, brighter, freer, and, yes, a bit noisier country than it otherwise would have been. Virtually all Americans feel a surge of pride when they hear expressions like the "Fighting 69th," or the "Fighting Irish of Notre Dame." And so many of our great public figures are of Irish ancestry -- from the man considered by many as the father of the American Navy, John Barry; to our first heavyweight champion, John L. Sullivan; to the great tenor, John McCormack; to a couple of Presidents of the United States and, yes, even to the current Speaker of the House.

In fact, the secret wish disclosed the other day by my good friend, Tip O'Neill, is an indication of the hold Ireland has on

all of us here in the States. This is a Nation where the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives aspires to someday be Ambassador to Ireland. Mr. Prime Minister, I was explaining to Tip only a few moments ago why I thought that appointment was impossible. And perhaps, knowing your countrymen as you do, you'll agree with me. Tip, the Irish aren't looking for speakers . . . they're looking for listeners.

Well, Mr. Prime Minister, the joshing we do here is in the best Irish tradition -- it makes light of what are sometimes serious political differences. But I think there is one point on which the Speaker, Senator Kennedy, myself and the other Irish American leaders here are united: our admiration for the efforts you are making to bring peace and stability to Ireland. We support your personal mission in America: to end the tragically misguided support of some here for terrorist elements in Northern Ireland.

You know, Mr. Prime Minister, I was proud to learn that some of my family lines go back as far as the great 11th century warrior king, Brian Boru. But, perhaps like you, I sometimes wonder what our brave ancestors — those who fought so gallantly over so many centuries against such hopeless odds — what they would say about the valor of people who commit acts of violence and prey on the innocent, sometimes maiming and killing women and children.

Your words have been very direct on this point, Mr. Prime Minister. You have reminded those in this country who provide assistance to Northern Ireland's terrorists that they are

assisting in violence and murder. Let me assure you that the vast majority of Irish Americans join you today in condemning support for those who preach hatred and practice violence in Ireland.

But there is another part of your mission to America, Mr. Prime Minister, which is perhaps more fitting to today's festive atmosphere and more important over the long run. And that is the message of hope that you bring us. We are heartened by your efforts to seek a democratic and peaceful solution to the complex problems of Northern Ireland. As we know, the high-level dialogue between Ireland and Britain has been renewed, and the groups promoting reconciliation and economic cooperation — groups like Cooperation Ireland and the New Ireland Forum — are also bearing fruit. For our part, we shall continue to encourage American firms to invest in Ireland, North and South, in ways which promote prosperity for both traditions.

Some time ago a former American ambassador told me of a weekend retreat, where politicians from the various Irish traditions met together for a frank discussion of the differences that separated them. It was a good weekend. Those who had never talked of such matters before were able to speak and listen to each other in a spirit of understanding. On the bus back home, they laughed and sang songs. The spirit of friendship bloomed. But when they got off the bus, the spirit somehow seemed to evaporate. After hearing this story, I told our ambassador to take them a message, and I think it bears repeating.

Mr. Prime Minister, I express your sentiments, sir, and those of our own people, and of the people of both parts of Ireland, when we say to all those who struggle with the problem of peace in Ireland: "Please get back on the bus."

From my discussion with you this morning, Mr. Prime

Minister, I know how deeply you are committed to this effort. I

assure you, the hope and prayers of the American people go with

you. Peace and good cheer have never left Irish hearts -- and so

we look to days of peace and harmony to come, when every day we

may say what is said on St. Patrick's Day:

O Ireland, isn't it grand you look -Like a bride in her rich adornin'?
And with all the pent-up love of my heart
I bid you top of the mornin'.

Now, may I ask all of you here to join me in a toast to our friend, Prime Minister FitzGerald, and to the warmest and best of friendships, Ireland and the United States'.

Ine Fresides. . . 500n

Received 55

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

1984 MAR 14 PM 5: 48

March 14, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

ANTHONY R. DOLAN

SUBJECT:

Irish Luncheon Remarks

We are not sure about the Brian Boru reference (page 2, $\P2$), and were wondering if it is true. By the way, I just found out I have a grandmother Reagan from Tipperary, and have a score of genealogists trying to find out if I am related to the boss.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: LUNCHEON WITH PRIME MINISTER FITZGERALD FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 1984

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And we're especially happy to have you visiting at such an appropriate moment. Tomorrow is a great day in America, a day of bagpipes and shamrocks, a day when everyone is Irish or, as the saying has it, wishes they were Frish.

In the United States, especially, the impact of the Emerald Isle on our culture and history is enormous. America is today, because of the Irish, a richer, brighter, freer, and, yes, a bit noisier country than it otherwise would have been. Virtually all Americans feel a surge of pride when they hear expressions like the "Fighting 69th," or the "Fighting Irish of Notre Dame." And so many of our great public figures are of Irish ancestry -- from the man considered by many as the father of the American Navy, John Barry; to our first heavyweight champion, John L. Sullivan; to the great tenor, John McCormack; to a couple of Presidents of the United States and, yes, even to the current Speaker of the House.

In fact, the secret wish disclosed the other day by my good friend, Tip O'Neill, is an indication of the hold Ireland has on

all of us here in the States. This is a Nation where the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives aspires to someday be Ambassador to Ireland. Mr. Prime Minister, I was explaining to Tip only a few moments ago why I thought that appointment was impossible. And perhaps, knowing your countrymen as you do, you'll agree with me. Tip, the Irish aren't looking for speakers . . . they're looking for listeners.

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assisting in violence and murder. Let me assure you that the vast majority of Irish Americans join you today in condemning support for those who preach hatred and practice violence in Ireland.

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Received S S 1984 MAR 13 PH 2: 49

(Dolan/BE) March 13, 1984 3:00 p.m.

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And we're especially happy to have you visiting at such an appropriate moment. Tomorrow is a great day in America, a day of bagpipes and shamrocks, a day when everyone is Irish or, as the saying has it, wishes they were Irish.

Tomorrow's celebration is only one indication of how much the physical size of "the little land across the Irish Sea" is exceeded by its influence. I think of the story told about one distinguished scholar who was listing the great figures in the English literary tradition and got through Jonathan Swift, James Joyce and Bernard Shaw before he caught himself.

And in the United States, of course, the impact of the Emerald Isle on our culture and history is taken almost as much for granted. America is today, because of the Irish, a richer, brighter, freer, and, yes, a bit noisier country than it otherwise would have been. Virtually all Americans feel a surge of pride when they hear expressions like the "Fighting 69th," or the "Fighting Irish of Notre Dame." And so many of our great public figures are of Irish ancestry — from the father of the

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Actually, I know why Tip would like to be ambassador to a nation in Europe . . . it's certainly the best place to meet Congressmen.

Prime Minister, Tip and I get along wonderfully well. In fact, some people have wondered why, after very tough discussions in the Oval Office, Tip has come out and supported us on critical measures. Well, the truth is that early in the Administration I discovered something very useful: Tip gives up on the twenty-second anecdote.

Forgive me, Tip, I know you're sensitive about that. But you know how it is: I forget.

Well, Mr. Prime Minister, the joshing we do here is in the best Irish tradition -- it makes light of what are sometimes

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Document No.	

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE:	3/13/8	ACTION/CO	NCURR	ENCE/CO	MMENT DUE BY:	N 3/14/8	
SUBJECT:	DRAFT	PRESIDENTIAL I	REMARK		INCHEON WITH PRIME MINI (3/13 - 3:00 p.m. draf ROPBY BRIEFING FOR PUER (3/13 - 2:00 p.m. draf	t) RTO RICAN	
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REMARKS:

PLEASE FORWARD ANY EDITS/COMMENTS DIRECTLY TO BEN ELLIOTT, WITH A COPY TO MY OFFICE, BY 12:00 NOON TOMORROW. THANK YOU.

RESPONSE:

1984 MAR 13 PM 2: 49

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: LUNCHEON WITH PRIME MINISTER FITZGERALD FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 1984

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Greg Ballentine			
Fred Khedouri	/		
John Cogan		/	
Connie Horner			
Al Keel			
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12:00 NOON 3/14/84

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY:

3/13MAR13 P3:20

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RESPONSE:

(Myer/BE) March 13, 1984 2:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DROPBY BRIEFING FOR PUERTO RICAN LEADERS THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 1984

Good afternoon, buenas tardes and a warm welcome. I'm delighted to have this opportunity to spend a few minutes with you -- and opportunity is what I want to talk about.

America has always been a magnet for people seeking freedom and peace, the opportunity to better their lot and to go as far as their God-given talents let them. Pioneers came to our shores with the courage to start all over again because they knew America offered hope for the future. Today, our task is to make sure that even the poorest, most recent pioneers have good reason to dream the same great dreams as those who came before.

A promising future begins with a foothold on the economic ladder. The recovery now surging through this land is providing millions of our people that chance. The economic recovery is helping every American and every ethnic group.

Last month alone, 700,000 Americans found jobs, and we're experiencing the steepest drop in the unemployment rate in over three decades. Since the beginning of the recovery, nearly 5 million people have found jobs. And all the economic indicators suggest more jobs are on the way. But we cannot rest until every American who wants a job can find a job.

We want to build an American opportunity society and that means we cannot go back to the failed policies of big taxing and spending. The painful consequences of those policies haven't been forgotten. Too many dreams were shattered when

· as our economy continues to expand

double-digit inflation, record interest rates and economic stagnation knocked industries, small businesses, homemakers and breadwinners off their feet. Inflation robbed us all, and the worst hardships were borne by those at the bottom of the economic ladder.

Nor did the explosion in social spending get crime and drugs off the street or give us a better education for our children. The disadvantaged became more dependent on Federal programs as work disincentives discouraged initiative. Urban America was going downhill and solutions seemed farther and farther away. It's no wonder Americans were losing confidence in their Government.

Now that we're regaining confidence, now that America is back on the road to robust growth, I believe it's time to build even wider opportunities.

We must go forward to new goals to keep the nightmare of inflation from ever coming back. We must enact constitutional budget reforms like the line-item veto and the balanced budget amendment. And to make taxes more simple and fair, and to provide greater incentives to our people, we must press for tax simplification -- a sweeping and comprehensive reform of the entire tax code.

I know Ray Donovan, Sam Pierce and others will be speaking with you this afternoon. At the risk of pre-empting them, I'd like to highlight several programs that offer exciting opportunities for urban America.

In the area of jobs, the Job Training Partnership Act gives communities new flexibility; and, by using private industry councils, it matches local needs with sensible training. The program will train over a million workers a year for productive but found jobs. CETA did just the opposite. It spent \$5% billion to find private sector jobs for only 15 percent of the participants.

Well, those days are over, and the future is now a genuine partnership for real jobs with a bright future.

while I'm talking about jobs, let me mention that more and more people recognize that the minimum wage puts unskilled young people at a disadvantage when they're looking for jobs. Our proposal youth employment opportunity wage bill would give our young people the opportunity to gain their first foothold on the intresummer proposal would economic ladder. And the bill will protect current workers from displacement. It's now before the Congress and it deserves your strong support.

Enterprise zones is another legislative initiative that would mean welcome renewal for urban areas of hardcore unemployment. Enterprise zones encourage growth and opportunity where we need it most -- in areas of high youth and minority unemployment, in areas hardest hit by urban decay. The legislation provides incentives for business firms and entrepreneurs to invest in blighted areas, create new jobs, and bring new life to distressed areas. This legislation has been on Capitol Hill for more than 2 years. The Senate has passed it, but the House continues to drag its feet. Forgive me, but those who refuse to take action on a bill to create jobs and

opportunity are the <u>last</u> people who should be giving speeches about their compassion for the unemployed.

And too many of those Members in the House are dragging their feet on another important piece of legislation -- one that would get tough on criminals. For too many years, crime and the fear of crime robbed our cities of their strength and vitality, and inner cities suffered the most. Well, common sense is beginning to pay off. In 1982, the crime rate dropped by 4.3 percent -- the biggest decline in a decade. But we still need to do much more. We need new laws to stop drug traffickers and tougher laws to fight the criminal elements in our society.

The way to get long overdue reform begins with passage of our Comprehensive Crime Control Act. This comprehensive anti-crime package will give more protection to our law-abiding citizens, by cracking down on criminals, particularly organized crime and drug traffickers. It would enable authorities to keep people considered dangerous to the community behind bars pending trial. And it would strictly limit paroles. The legislation has passed the Senate. The House should stop delaying, put partisan politics aside and do what's right for you, the law-abiding people of this country.

These programs, and they're only a sample, will help those who need help, and they'll promote stronger, more prosperous and stable urban communities.

I sense a spirit of optimism spreading across our land carrying hope and opportunity to more and more urban areas. And I think it's justified. America is moving forward again.

I know much remains to be done; I know many of our fellow countrymen still wonder what will come of their hopes and dreams. Success will not come easy, but it will come. To make it happen, America needs the help of our Puerto Rican citizens. You've enriched our national culture and our heritage. We need your energy, your hard work, your values, and we need them expressed in your community and within our political system. If you follow your hopes and dreams, all of us will benefit.

Muchas gracias and vayan con Dios. [Thank you and God bless you.]

THE WHITE HOUSMAR 14 PM 6: 25

WASHINGTON

March 14, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

DIRECTOR, PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHWRITING OFFICE

FROM:

FRED F. FIELDING Orig. signed by FFF

COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Draft Presidential Remarks: Luncheon

With Prime Minister FitzGerald

(3/13 - 3:00 p.m. Draft) -- Dropby Briefing for Puerto Rican Leaders

(3/13 - 2:00 p.m. Draft)

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced remarks, and finds no objection to them from a legal perspective. We are concerned, however, that the political humor in paragraphs 2-4 on page 2 of the FitzGerald remarks may be inappropriate in remarks for a foreign leader.

cc: Richard G. Darman

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ARKS:						

Richard G. Darman Assistant to the President Ext. 2702

RESPONSE:

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12:00 NOON 3/14/84

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1984 MAR 14 PM 12: 24

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DATE:	3/13/8	ACTION/	CONCURR	ENCE/	COMMENT DUE BY:	12:00 NOO	N 3/14/8	34
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RESPONSE: 1. See Comments pages 2 and function comments.

2. Display Okay

Richa

Richard G. Darman Assistant to the President Ext. 2702

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of Presidents of the United States and, yes, even to the current
Speaker of the House.

In fact, the secret wish disclosed the other day by my good friend, Tip O'Neill, is an indication of the hold Ireland has on all of us here in the States. This is a Nation where the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives aspires to someday be Ambassador to Ireland. Mr. Prime Minister, I was explaining to

rip only a few moments ago why I thought that appointment was impossible. And perhaps, knowing your countrymen as you do.

you'll agree with me. Tip, the Irish aren't looking for speakers . . they're looking for listeners.

Actually, I know why Tip would like to be ambassador to a nation in Europe . . . it's certainly the best place to meet Congressmen.

But no matter what you may have heard to the contrary, Mr. Prime Minister, Tip and I get along wonderfully well. In fact, some people have wondered why, after very tough discussions in the Oval Office, Tip has come out and supported us on critical measures. Well, the truth is that early in the Administration I discovered something very useful: Tip gives up on the twenty-second anecdote.

Forgive me, Tip, I know you're sensitive about that. But

Well, Mr. Prime Minister, the joshing we do here is in the best Irish tradition -- it makes light of what are sometimes

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which the Speaker, Senator Kennedy, myself and the other Irish American leaders here are united: our admiration for the efforts you are making to bring peace and stability to Ireland. We support your personal mission in America to end the tragically misguided support of some here for terrorist elements in Northern Ireland.

You know, Mr. Prime Minister, I was proud to learn that some of my family lines go back as far as the great 11th century warrior king, Brian Boru. But, perhaps like you, I sometimes wonder what our brave ancestors — those who fought so gallantly over so many centuries against such hopeless odds — what they would say about the valor of people who commit acts of violence, prey on the innocent, and sometimes maim and kill women and children.

Your words have been very direct on this point, Mr. Prime Minister. You have reminded those in this country who provide assistance to Northern Ireland's terrorists that they are assisting in violence and murder. Let me assure you that the vast majority of Irish-Americans join you today in condemning support for those who preach hatred and violence in Ireland.

But there is another part of your mission to America, Mr.

Prime Minister, which is perhaps more fitting to today's festive atmosphere and more important over the long run. And that is the message of hope that you bring us. I know you believe that the great traditions of Ireland are now working well together and will someday achieve peace and harmony in your beautiful country.

As we know, the high-level dialogue between Ireland and Britain has been renewed, and the work of groups promoting reconciliation and economic cooperation -- groups like Ireland Cooperation North whose chairman, ______, is here today -- as well as the New Ireland Forum, composed of your country's political leaders, are also bearing fruit.

I know that all true friends of Ireland, regardless of party affiliation, regardless of religious tradition, encourage this effort and join me in calling on all those concerned to find a just and peaceful solution to the divisions and antagonisms of the past.

Some time ago a former American ambassador told me of a weekend retreat, where politicians from the various Irish traditions met together for a frank discussion of the differences that separated them. It was a good weekend. Men and women who had never talked of such matters before were able to speak and listen to each other in a spirit of understanding. On the bus back to Belfast, they laughed and sang songs. The spirit of friendship bloomed. But when they got off the bus in Belfast, the spirit somehow seemed to evaporate in the air of the city. After hearing this story, I told our Ambassador to take them a message, and I think it bears repeating.

Now, Mr. Prime Minister, we Americans have no business prescribing solutions to age-old problems that can be worked out only by the people and the government directly involved. But, I think we express your sentiments, sir, and those of our own people, and of the people of Ireland and Northern Ireland, when

we say to all those who struggle with the problem of peace in Ireland: "Please get back on the bus."

From my discussion with you this morning, Mr. Prime

Minister, I know how deeply you are committed to this effort. I

assure you, the hope and prayers of the American people go with

you. Peace and good cheer have never left Trish hearts — and so

we look to days of peace and harmony to come, when every day we

may say what is said on St. Patrick's Day:

O Ireland, isn't it grand you look -Like a bride in her rich adornin'?
And with all the pent-up love of my heart
I bid you top of the mornin'.

Now, may I ask all of you here to join me in a toast to our friend, Prime Minister FitzGerald, and to the warmest and best of friendships, Ireland and the United States'.

Document No.	
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12:00 NOON 3/14/84

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

3/13/84

DATE:	3/13/8	ACTION/0	CONCURR	ENCE/	COMMENT DUE BY:		
SUBJECT:	DRAFT	PRESIDENTIAL	REMAR	KS:	LUNCHEON WITH PRIME	MINISTER FIT	ZGERA
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RESPONSI	E:				J. William		

Richard G. Darman Assistant to the President Ext. 2702

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



March 14, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

FROM: FAITH WHITTLESEY, ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

FOR PUBLIC LIAISON

. . .

SUBJECT: Remarks for Luncheon with Prime Minister

Fitzgerald of Ireland

This office has reviewed the proposed remarks for the luncheon in honor of the Prime Minister of Ireland and suggests the following changes:

Page 3, ¶2: After the sentence ending with the words "... violence and murder," add the sentence, "As you know, most Irish-Americans are very proud of the land of their heritage, and they are very interested in and concerned with her future. However....."

Page 4, ¶3: The following sentence should be deleted, "(W)e Americans have no business prescribing solutions to age-old problems that can be worked out only the by people and the government directly involved."

This language would be interpreted by well meaning Irish-Americans that they have no right to express their legitimate concerns over the settlement of the problems in Northern Ireland. The press and our critics could also accuse us of using a double standard, as the U.S. is very much involved in the settlement of "age-old problems" in the Middle East and other trouble spots of the world.

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