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Last Updated: 02/08/2024

(ELLIOTT)

JUNE 1, 1984

## SHANNON ARRIVAL CEREMONY

215016 CU 50889

PRESIDENT AND MRS. HILLERY, PRIME
MINISTER AND MRS. FITZGERALD, DISTINGUISHED
GUESTS, AND I WANT TO ADD WITH THE GREATEST
OF PLEASURE: (AH-COR-JAH GALE).

ON BEHALF OF NANCY AND MYSELF, THANK
YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR WARM AND WONDERFUL
IRISH WELCOME. WE ARE BEGINNING A MISSION
TO STRENGTHEN HISTORIC TIES OF FRIENDSHIP
AND COOPERATION AMONG THE WORLD'S LEADING
DEMOCRACIES. IT IS OUR DEEPEST HOPE, AND
OUR EARNEST CONVICTION, THAT WE CAN MAKE
GENUINE PROGRESS TOGETHER TOWARD A SAFER
WORLD, A MORE PROSPEROUS WORLD, A FAR BETTER
WORLD.

TO BE ABLE TO BEGIN OUR JOURNEY ON THIS ISLE OF WONDROUS BEAUTY, WITH A COUNTRYSIDE GREEN AS NO OTHER PLACE SEEMS TO BE, TO BE ABLE TO STAND ON THE SOIL OF MY ANCESTORS AMONG ALL OF YOU, IS, FOR ME, A VERY SPECIAL GIFT.

I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT, FOR THIS GREAT-GRANDSON OF IRELAND, THIS IS A MOMENT OF JOY.

AND I AM RETURNING NOT ONLY TO MY OWN ROOTS, I AM RETURNING TO AMERICA'S ROOTS.

SO MUCH OF WHAT AMERICA MEANS AND STANDS FOR WE OWE TO YOU - TO YOUR INDOMITABLE SPIRIT AND GENEROSITY, AND TO YOUR IMPASSIONED LOVE FOR LIBERTY AND INDEPENDENCE.

THERE ARE FEW PEOPLE ON EARTH WHOSE
HEARTS BURN MORE WITH THE FLAME OF FREEDOM
THAN THE IRISH. GEORGE WASHINGTON SAID,
WHEN OUR FRIENDLESS STANDARD WAS FIRST
UNFURLED FOR RESISTANCE, WHO WERE THE
STRANGERS WHO FIRST MUSTERED AROUND OUR
STAFF? AND WHEN IT REELED IN FIGHT, WHO
MORE BRAVELY SUSTAINED IT THAN ERIN'S
GENEROUS SONS?

YOU DID. AMERICA HAS ALWAYS BEEN A
HAVEN OF OPPORTUNITY FOR THOSE SEEKING A NEW
LIFE. THEY, IN TURN, HAVE GIVEN TO US,
SHAPED US, ENRICHED US. AND, FROM THE
BEGINNING, WHEN THAT FIRST LARGE PARTY OF
YOUR ANCESTORS ARRIVED AT NEWPORT NEWS IN
1621, YOUR IRISH BLOOD HAS ENRICHED AMERICA.

WITH COURAGE AND DETERMINATION, YOU HELPED OUR STRUGGLING COLONY BREAK FREE.
THEN, DAY-BY-DAY, BY THE SWEAT OF YOUR BROW AND WITH AN ACHE IN YOUR BACK YOU HELPED TURN OUR SMALL, UNDEVELOPED COUNTRY INTO A GREAT AND MIGHTY NATION; YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS SHAPED OUR LITERARY AND CULTURAL HISTORY; YOUR SMILES, MIRTH, AND SONG LIFTED OUR SPIRITS WITH LAUGHTER AND MUSIC; AND ALWAYS, YOU REMINDED US BY YOUR DEEP FAITH THAT WISDOM AND TRUTH, LOVE AND BEAUTY, GRACE AND GLORY BEGIN IN HIM -- OUR FATHER, OUR CREATOR, OUR LOVING GOD.

NO WONDER WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED ALL
THESE YEARS BY WHAT SOME CALL "THE LUCK OF
THE IRISH."

TODAY, THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF OUR FIRST IRISH SETTLERS NUMBER 40 MILLION STRONG. SPEAKING FOR THEM, AND EVEN FOR THOSE NOT SO FORTUNATE, MAY I SAY:— WE ARE STILL PART OF YOU; WE HAVE AND WILL REMAIN TRUE TO YOUR VALUES; LONG LIVE IRISH-AMERICAN ERIENDSHIP.

THE CHALLENGES TO PEACE AND FREEDOM
THAT WE FACE TODAY ARE NEITHER EASY NOR FREE
FROM DANGER, BUT FACE THEM WE MUST, AND
SURMOUNT THEM WE CAN, PROVIDING THAT WE
REMEMBER THE RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY,
AND OF GOVERNMENT RESTING ON THE CONSENT OF
THE GOVERNED, ARE MORE THAN THE SOLE
POSSESSION OF A CHOSEN FEW; THEY ARE
UNIVERSAL RIGHTS, GIFTS FROM GOD TO MEN AND
WOMEN EVERYWHERE.

AND THOSE RIGHTS ARE A CRUCIAL ANCHOR FOR STABILITY IN A TROUBLED WORLD—A WORLD WHERE PEACE IS THREATENED BY GOVERNMENTS THAT OPPRESS THEIR CITIZENS, RENOUNCE GOD, AND PREY ON THEIR NEIGHBORS. EDMUND BURKE'S WARNING OF NEARLY TWO CENTURIES AGO HOLDS TRUE TODAY, THE ONLY THING NECESSARY FOR THE TRIUMPH OF EVIL IS FOR GOOD MEN TO DO NOTHING.

IRELAND TODAY IS UNDERTAKING IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITIES IN INTERNATIONAL COUNCILS, AND THROUGH YOUR PEACEKEEPING FORCES, TO HELP REDUCE THE RISKS OF WAR. THE UNITED STATES BEARS A HEAVY BURDEN FOR STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PRESERVING PEACE, AND WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR IRELAND'S CONTRIBUTIONS.

AMERICANS ARE PEOPLE OF PEACE. WE HAVE KNOWN AND SUFFERED THE TRAUMA OF WAR, AND WITNESSED THE FRUITS OF RECONCILIATION.

THAT IS WHY WE PRAY TOLERANCE AND RECONCILIATION WILL ONE DAY UNITE CATHOLICS AND PROTESTANTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND IN A SPIRIT OF COMMUNION AND COMMUNITY AND THAT IS WHY THOSE WHO ADVOCATE VIOLENCE OR ENGAGE IN TERRORISM IN NORTHERN IRELAND WILL NEVER BE WELCOME IN THE UNITED STATES.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE, I BELIEVE THERE IS REASON FOR OPTIMISM AND CONFIDENCE.

AMERICA'S ECONOMIC EXPANSION CAN AND SHOULD BRING MORE JOBS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO YOUR PEOPLE. AND THE MORE THAN 300 U.S.

COMPANIES BASED HERE DEMONSTRATE OUR CLEAR COMMITMENT TO A FUTURE OF PEACE AND WELL-BEING FOR ALL THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND, NORTH AND SOUTH.

THANK YOU, AGAIN, FOR MAKING NANCY AND ME FEEL SO WELCOME. AND MAY I SPEAK FOR SO MANY OF YOUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS IN AMERICA WHEN I SAY THE WORDS!

# # #

GALWAY UNIVERSITY COLLEGE SPEECH

21505433 SP889

AH COR-JAH GALE). THANK YOU. I VERY MUCH APPRECIATE THE HONOR YOU HAVE PAID ME TODAY. A DEGREE, HONORARY THOUGH IT MAY BE, IS A RECOGNITION OF A CERTAIN UNDERSTANDING OF CULTURE AND OF THE TRUTHS THAT ARE AT THE FOUNDATION OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION. A DEGREE FROM AN IRISH UNIVERSITY, IN THIS RESPECT, IS OF EVEN GREATER SIGNIFICANCE.

I'D LIKE TO TAKE THIS MOMENT TO

CONGRATULATE YOUR DISTINGUISHED PRESIDENT OF

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE GALWAY, DR. [O'HUCK-AH]

FOR ALL HE HAS DONE AND IS DOING TO OVERCOME

THE SPIRAL OF VIOLENCE WHICH HAS PLAGUED

NORTHERN IRELAND. AS CHAIRMAN OF THE NEW

IRELAND FORUM, YOU HELPED TO OPEN DOORS OF

OPPORTUNITY FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION.

The President has seen\_\_\_\_\_

PROGRESS WILL DEPEND ON OTHER
RESPONSIBLE LEADERS, IN BOTH PARTS OF
IRELAND AND IN GREAT BRITAIN, FOLLOWING YOUR
EXAMPLE. AS FAR AS THE UNITED STATES IS
CONCERNED, WE APPLAUD ALL THOSE WHO STRIVE
FOR CONSTRUCTIVE POLITICAL COOPERATION AND
RENOUNCE VIOLENCE. WE PRAY THAT MEN AND
WOMEN OF GOOD WILL IN ALL PARTS OF THIS LAND
CAN, THROUGH MUTUAL CONSENT AND
CONSULTATION; FIND A WAY OF BRINGING PEACE
AND HARMONY TO THIS ISLAND THAT MEANS SO
MUCH TO US.

IT WAS HERE IN IRELAND THAT MONKS AND SCHOLARS PRESERVED THE THEOLOGICAL AND CLASSICAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE WESTERN WORLD DURING A TIME OF DARKNESS ON THE CONTINENT OF EUROPE.

WITH THE TRIUMPH OF ST. PATRICK AND
CHRISTIANITY IRELAND EMERGED AS ONE OF THE
MOST LEARNED COUNTRIES OF EUROPE, ATTRACTING
STUDENTS FROM DISTANT LANDS AND KNOWN FOR
CENTURIES AS THE ISLAND OF SAINTS AND
SCHOLARS.

THIS VENERATION OF KNOWLEDGE IS PART OF OUR HERITAGE I AM MOST PROUD TO SHARE.

WHILE TYRANTS IN MANY NATIONS STAMPED THEIR POPULATIONS INTO CONFORMITY AND SUBMISSION, OUR ANCESTORS ENJOYED HEATED EXCHANGES OF IDEAS AS FAR BACK AS IN THE COURT OF GOOD KING BRIAN BORU. IT'S PART OF OUR BLOOD.

THAT'S WHAT I KEEP TELLING MYSELF EVERY TIME I TRY TO IRON OUT MY DIFFERENCES WITH THE SPEAKER OF OUR HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. A LAD BY THE NAME OF TIP O'NEILL.

WELL, TIP IS A GREAT SON OF IRELAND AND A GREAT AMERICAN AS WELL. I CAN SAY THAT, KNOWING WE HAVE HEARTFELT DIFFERENCES OF OPINION. YET, IN FREE SOCIETIES, DIFFERENCES ARE EXPECTED, INDEED ENCOURAGED. IT IS THIS FREEDOM TO DISAGREE, TO QUESTION, TO STATE ONE'S CASE EVEN WHEN IN OPPOSITION TO THOSE IN AUTHORITY, THAT IS THE CORNERSTONE OF LIBERTY AND HUMAN PROGRESS.

WHEN I ARRIVED IN SHANNON YESTERDAY, I
MENTIONED THAT I WAS NOT ONLY RETURNING TO
MY OWN ROOTS, BUT ALSO TO THOSE OF MY
COUNTRY'S FREEDOM. HISTORICALLY, OF COURSE,
NO ONE CAN DOUBT IRELAND'S ENORMOUS
CONTRIBUTIONS TO AMERICAN LIBERTY. NINE OF
THE SIGNERS OF OUR DECLARATION OF
INDEPENDENCE WERE OF IRISH ANCESTRY; FOUR
WERE BORN IN IRELAND. TWENTY GENERALS IN
OUR REVOLUTIONARY ARMY WERE OF IRISH
ANCESTRY.

GENERALS MONTGOMERY, SULLIVAN, WAYNE, AND OTHERS WERE IN THE THICK OF THE BATTLE. ON WASHINGTON'S PERSONAL STAFF WERE GENERALS MOYLAND AND FITZGERALD. AND ON THE HIGH SEAS, COMMODORE JOHN BARRY, CONSIDERED BY MANY THE FATHER OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY, WAS BORN IN COUNTY WEXFORD.

AS OFFICERS, AND AS SOLDIERS, SAILORS, AND MARINES, IRISH IMMIGRANTS ADDED FIRE TO THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, A FIRE THAT IGNITED A FLAME OF LIBERTY AS HAD NEVER BEFORE BEEN SEEN. THIS WAS NOT A RESULT OF UNCONTROLLABLE HISTORICAL FORCES, BUT THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF HEROIC INDIVIDUALS WHOSE COMMITMENT AND COURAGE SHOOK THE FOUNDATIONS OF EMPIRES. WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS PUT IT WELL:

WHATEVER FLAMES UPON THE NIGHT
MAN'S OWN RESINOUS HEART HAS FED. \*\*

AND I IMAGINE THE BRITISH WEREN'T SURPRISED
TO SEE JUST WHO WAS FANNING THOSE FLAMES.

SIR HENRY CLINTON WROTE HOME TO LONDON THAT,

THE EMIGRANTS FROM IRELAND ARE OUR MOST
SERIOUS OPPONENTS.

BY THE TIME OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, IRELAND WAS ALREADY A NATION STEEPED IN CULTURE AND HISTORICAL TRADITIONS — A FACT EVIDENCED BY YOUR OWN CITY OF GALWAY, WHICH IS CELEBRATING ITS 500TH ANNIVERSARY.

PERMIT ME TO CONGRATULATE ALL OF YOUR CITIZENS ON THIS AUGUST OCCASION.

THIS ESTEEMED UNIVERSITY IS ONLY ONE PART OF THE EDUCATIONAL TRADITION OF GALWAY.

I'M TOLD THAT AS FAR BACK AS 1580, GALWAY MAYOR DOMINICK LYNCH FOUNDED A FREE SCHOOL HERE WHICH BECAME A WELL-KNOWN CENTER OF CATHOLIC CULTURE AND NATIONALIST ACTIVITY, ATTRACTING PUPILS FROM NEAR AND FAR.

BY 1627, SO MANY WERE FLOCKING HERE,

(MANY WITH NO MEANS OF SUPPORT) THAT THE CITY

ORDERED FOREIGN BEGGARS AND POOR SCHOLARS\*

TO BE WHIPPED OUT OF TOWN. CONSIDERING THE

DEGREE YOU HAVE JUST BESTOWED UPON ME, I CAN

ONLY HOPE THAT RULE IS NO LONGER IN EFFECT.

I'M AFRAID WE HAVE NO COMMUNITIES QUITE SO VENERABLE AS GALWAY IN THE UNITED STATES. BUT WHAT WE LACK IN YEARS WE TRY HARD TO MAKE UP FOR IN SPIRIT. FROM THE TIME OF OUR INDEPENDENCE UNTIL THE PRESENT MOMENT, THE MAINSPRING OF OUR NATIONAL IDENTITY HAS BEEN A COMMON DEDICATION TO THE PRINCIPLES OF HUMAN LIBERTY. FURTHER, WE BELIEVE THERE IS A VITAL LINK BETWEEN OUR FREEDOM AND THE DRAMATIC PROGRESS -- (THE INCREASE IN OUR MATERIAL WELL-BEING) -- THAT WE'VE ENJOYED OVER THESE LAST 200 YEARS.

FREEDOM MOTIVATES PEOPLE OF COURAGE AND CREATIVITY TO STRIVE, TO IMPROVE, AND TO PUSH BACK THE BOUNDARIES OF KNOWLEDGE.

HERE, TOO, THE IRISH CHARACTER HAS

CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH. GALWAY, A CITY

COLUMBUS IS SAID TO HAVE VISITED ON HIS WAY

TO THE NEW WORLD, IS ON A COAST WHICH FOR SO LONG WAS THE WESTERN EDGE, THE FRONTIER OF THE KNOWN WORLD.

THIS IS THE 1,500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF ST. BRENDAN, WHO, LEGEND TELLS US, SAILED WEST INTO UNCHARTED WATERS AND DISCOVERED NEW LANDS. THIS MAN OF GOD, A MAN OF LEARNING WHOSE MONASTERIES WERE PART OF IRELAND'S GOLDEN AGE, MAY, INDEED, HAVE BEEN THE FIRST TIE BETWEEN IRELAND AND AMERICA. I UNDERSTAND MUCH TIME AND EFFORT HAS GONE INTO ORGANIZING WHAT WILL BE AN ANNUAL TRANS-ATLANTIC YACHT RACE BETWEEN IRELAND AND THE UNITED STATES COMMEMORATING BRENDAN'S VOYAGE.

I COMMEND THOSE MAKING THIS EFFORT TO ESTABLISH WHAT COULD PROVE TO BE AN EXCITING NEW LINK BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

WHETHER BRENDAN REACHED THE AMERICAN CONTINENT OR NOT; THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT THE IRISH ROLE IN TAMING THE WILDERNESS OF THE NEW WORLD AND TURNING AMERICA INTO AN ECONOMIC DYNAMO BEYOND IMAGINATION. THE IRISH CAME BY THE MILLIONS, SEEKING REFUGE FROM TYRANNY AND DEPRIVATION -- FROM HUNGER OF THE BODY AND OF THE SOUL.

THEY BUILT OUR RAILROADS AND, AS WITH MY
FAMILY, SETTLED AND FARMED THE VAST
STRETCHES OF UNCULTIVATED PRAIRIE IN THE
HEARTLAND OF AMERICA. THEY FILLED THE RANKS
IN OUR MILITARY FORCES, THEY HELPED ORGANIZE
OUR LABOR UNIONS, AND THEY JUMPED INTO
AMERICAN POLITICS WITH GREAT VIGOR.

THE DREAM OF A BETTER LIFE BROUGHT
THESE PEOPLE TO OUR SHORES, AND MILLIONS OF
OTHERS FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE WORLD.
TODAY, THEY AND THEIR DESCENDANTS MAINTAIN
GREAT PRIDE IN THEIR ANCESTRY. AND, TODAY,
I COME TO IRELAND - YES, TO SEEK MY
ROOTS )- BUT, ALSO, TO SAY, THANK YOU, TO
YOUR MATION, AND TO YOUR PEOPLE FOR ALL YOU
CONTRIBUTED TO THE SPIRIT AND WELL-BEING OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

CERTAINLY AN IMPORTANT PART OF THAT
SPIRIT HAS BEEN AND MUST REMAIN CLOSE
PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CONTACTS. THE
PRIME MINISTER AND I ARE, THEREFORE, PLEASED
TO ANNOUNCE OUR AGREEMENT TO INCREASE
ACADEMIC EXCHANGE PROGRAMS BETWEEN THE
UNITED STATES AND IRELAND.

WE HAVE INSTRUCTED THE APPROPRIATE
AGENCIES OF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS TO PUT THIS
DECISION INTO EFFECT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE A LONG TRADITION OF
ACADEMIC COOPERATION, AND WE ARE DETERMINED
TO STRENGTHEN IT AS MUCH AS WE CAN.

FOR OUR PART, WE INTEND TO TRIPLE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAMS. I BELIEVE THESE PROGRAMS HAVE A SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE IN OUR RELATIONSHIP. EXPANDING THEM NOW WILL ENABLE FUTURE GENERATIONS TO APPRECIATE BETTER THE TRADITIONS AND EXPERIENCES THAT BIND US.

AMERICA IN THESE LAST FOUR DECADES HAS
ASSUMED A HEAVY BUDEN OF RESPONSIBILITY TO
HELP PRESERVE PEACE, AND PROMOTE ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN DIGNITY THROUGHOUT THE
WORLD. SOMETIMES, AS IS TO BE EXPECTED IN
ALL HUMAN ENDEAVORS, MISTAKES WERE MADE. YET,
OVERALL, I BELIEVE THE UNITED STATES HAS AN
ADMIRABLE RECORD.

THERE IS SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT I
WANT YOU TO KNOW: THE AMERICAN PEOPLE STILL
HOLD DEAR THOSE PRINCIPLES OF LIBERTY AND
JUSTICE FOR WHICH OUR FOREFATHERS SACRIFICED
SO MUCH. YOU NEED ONLY VISIT AMERICA TO
UNDERSTAND THIS; AND I HOPE THAT EACH OF YOU
WILL SOMEDAY BE ABLE TO VISIT US. WE ARE
STILL THE OPEN AND VIBRANT SOCIETY THAT
CAPTURED THE IMAGINATION OF THE WORLD. WE
ARE STILL A NATION COMPOSED OF GOOD AND
DECENT PEOPLE WHOSE FUNDAMENTAL VALUES OF
TOLERANCE, COMPASSION, AND FAIR-PLAY GUIDE
AND DIRECT THE DECISIONS OF OUR GOVERNMENT.
WE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN OUR ROOTS.

TODAY, THE FREE WORLD FACES AN ENORMOUSLY POWERFUL ADVISARY. A VISIT TO THAT COUNTRY, OR TO ITS COLONIES, WOULD REVEAL NO PUBLIC DISAGREEMENT, NO RIGHT OF ASSEMBLY, NO INDEPENDENT UNIONS.

WHAT WE FACE IS A STRONG AND AGGRESSIVE MILITARY MACHINE THAT PROHIBITS FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS.

AMERICAN POLICY IS AIMED AT DETERRING AGGRESSION AND HELPING OUR ALLIES AND OTHER FRIENDS PROTECT THEMSELVES, WHILE, AT THE SAME TIME, DOING EVERYTHING WE CAN TO REDUCE THE RISKS OF WAR. THIS IS A PERPLEXING AND, IN SO MANY WAYS, A THANKLESS TASK.

IF HISTORY TEACHES US ANYTHING IT IS THAT PEACE AND DEMOCRACY DO NOT COME EASY.

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT WAYS WE ARE TRYING TO REDUCE THE RISKS OF WAR IS THROUGH A NUCLEAR ARMS REDUCTION AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIET UNION. UNFORTUNATELY, WE ARE HAVING DIFFICULTY REACHING SUCH AN AGREEMENT, BECAUSE RIGHT NOW WE ARE AT THE BARGAINING TABLE FACING AN EMPTY CHAIR.

I WILL BE SPEAKING MORE ON THIS DURING MY
SPEECH TO YOUR PARLIAMENT, BUT LET ME AFFIRM
ONE THING FOR YOU TODAY. BEING IN THE
POSITION I AM IN, AND LIVING WITH THE
RESPONSIBILITY THAT IS INCUMBENT IN THIS
JOB, THERE IS NOTHING I WANT MORE THAN TO
FIND A WAY TO REDUCE THESE TERRIBLE WEAPONS
OF WAR, AND, INDEED, WE MUST NOT REST UNTIL
THE DAY WE CAN BANISH THEM ENTIRELY FROM THE
FACE OF THE EARTH. WE HAVE PROPOSED
DECREASING NUCLEAR AND CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS
ON BOTH SIDES TO EQUAL AND VERIFIABLE
NUMBERS. ALTHOUGH SOVIET INTRANSIGENCE HAS
STALLED PROGRESS AS OF LATE, IN THE LONG RUN
I REMAIN OPTIMISTIC.

BUT EVEN SUCCESS IN ARMS REDUCTION, AS WELCOME AS IT WOULD BE, WILL NOT SOLVE ALL THE WORLD'S PROBLEMS.

EVERY GENERATION OF FREE MEN AND WOMEN WILL FACE NEW CHALLENGES. BUT WE CAN BE CONFIDENT THAT HUMAN LIBERTY WILL PREVAIL, IF WE HAVE THE COURAGE TO MEET OUR RESPONSIBILITIES. WHAT GOD HAS ORDAINED IS NOT ONLY RIGHT, IT HAS STOOD THE TEST OF TIME. LIBERTY IS NOT JUST A POSSESSION OF ONE NATION, BUT AN INALIENABLE RIGHT OF PEOPLE EVERYWHERE, A GREAT UNIFYING FORCE FOR ALL MANKIND.

EDMUND BURKE, A GREAT SUPPORTER OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, AND A GREAT SON OF IRELAND AS WELL, ONCE SAID, THERE IS BUT ONE LAW FOR ALL, NAMELY, THAT LAW WHICH GOVERNS ALL LAW, THE LAW OF OUR CREATOR, THE LAW OF HUMANITY, JUSTICE, EQUITY -- THE LAW OF NATURE, AND OF NATIONS."

BURKE ALSO LIVED IN WHAT HIS

CONTEMPORARIES THOUGHT TO BE CONFUSING

TIMES. YET HE WAS ABLE TO SEE THROUGH THE

RHETORIC AND PERSONALITIES TO RECOGNIZE THAT

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WERE STRUGGLING NOT JUST

FOR SELFISH ENDS, BUT FOR LIBERTY AND

JUSTICE. TODAY, IRELAND AND THE UNITED

STATES REMAIN FAITHFUL TO THE LAW OF OUR

CREATOR. IT IS OUR WAY, BECAUSE WE ARE OF

THE SAME SEED. I KNOW AND RESPECT IRELAND'S

INDEPENDENT ROLE IN THE WORLD. YET I HOPE

IN OUR HEARTS, WE WILL ALWAYS STAND

TOGETHER. BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF IRELAND,

(DEE-AH LIVE GAH-LAIR). THANK YOU.

(Rohrabacher/RR)
May 30, 1984
2:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: BALLYPOREEN SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 1984 SP887

Nancy and I are most grateful to be with you today; to be with ah wing-cher nah-hair-in (the family of Ireland). It is difficult to express my appreciation to all of you. I feel like I am about to drown everyone in a bath of nostalgia.

Of all the honors and gifts afforded me as President, this visit is one I will cherish dearly. You see, I didn't know much about my family background. Not because of a lack of interest, but because my father was orphaned before he was 6 years old.

Now, thanks to you and efforts of good people who have dug into the history of a poor immigrant family, I know, at last, whence I came. This has given my soul a new contentment; and it is a joyous feeling; it is like coming home after a long journey.

Robert Frost, a reknowned American poet, once said, "Home is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in." Well, it's been so long since my great grandfather set out, that you don't have to take me in; so I'm certainly thankful for this wonderful homecoming today.

You know, I've been doing a little studying about Ballyporeen and County Tipperary. My . . . this doesn't look like such "small potatoes" to me.

I can't think of a place on this planet I would rather claim as my roots more than Ballyporeen, County Tipperary. My great grandfather left here, seeking to better himself and his family. From what I'm told, we were a poor family. But my ancestors took

with them a treasure, an indomitable spirit that was cultivated in the rich soil of this County.

And today I come back to you, as a descendant of people who are buried here in paupers' graves. Perhaps this is God's way of reminding us that we must always treat every individual, no matter what his or her station in life, with dignity and respect. And who knows? Someday that person's child or grandchild might grow up to become Prime Minister of Ireland, or President of the United States.

Looking around town today, I was struck by the similarity between Ballyporeen and Tampico, the small town in Illinois where I was born. Of course, there is one thing you have that we didn't have in Tampico: We didn't have a Ronald Reagan lounge in our town. But the spirit is the same, this spirit of warmth, friendliness, and openness in Tampico and Ballyporeen, and you make me feel very much at home.

What unites us is our shared heritage, and the common values of our two peoples. So many Irish men and women, from every walk of life, played a role in creating the dream of America. I'm certainly proud to be part of that great Irish-American tradition. From the time of our revolution when Irishmen filled the ranks of the Continental Army, to the building of the railroads, to the cultural contributions of individuals like the magnificent tenor John McKormak, and the athletic achievements of the great heavyweight boxing champion, John L. Sullivan . . . all of them are part of a great legacy.

Speaking of sports, I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate an organization of which all Irishmen and women can be proud, an organization that this year is celebrating its 100th anniversary: The Gaelic Athletic Association. I understand it was formed 100 years ago in Tipperary to foster the dance, culture, and games of traditional Ireland. Some of you may be aware that I began my career as a sports broadcaster, so I had an early appreciation for sporting competition.

Congratulations to all of you during this G.A.A. centennial celebration.

I also understand that not too far from here is the home of the great Irish journalist and songwriter, Charles Joseph Kickham, who is remembered by so many for his serial character Nellie Leahy [lah-he]. Those were back in the days when tales like that of poor Nellie and organizations like the G.A.A. were expressions of an Irish personality seeking its own identity.

This Irish identity flourished in the United States. Irish men and women, proud of their heritage, can be found in every walk of life. I even have some of them in my Cabinet. One of them almost has the same name -- Secretary of the Treasury, Don Regan. He spells it R-E-G-A-N. We're all of the same clan, all cousins. I tried to tell the Secretary one day that his branch of the family just couldn't handle as many letters as ours. Then I received a paper from Ireland that told me that in the clan to which we belong, those who said Regan and spelled it that way were the professional people and the educators, and only the common laborers called it Reagan. So meet a common laborer.

I am proud to be here in recognition and celebration of the tie that binds. My roots in Ballyporeen, County Tipperary, are little different than millions of other Americans who find their roots in towns and counties all over the Isle of Erin. I just feel exceptionally lucky to have this chance to visit you.

Last year a member of my staff came through town and recorded some messages from you. It was quite a tape, and I was moved deeply by the sentiments you expressed. One of your townsmen sang me a bit of a tune about Shawn Tracy and a few lines stuck in my mind. They went like this: And I'll never more roam, from my own native home, in Tipperary so far away.

Well, the Reagans roamed to America, but we're back. Nancy and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts for coming out to welcome us.

And one last thing, I'm not referring to a certain Irish politician back in the States when I say this: UP TIP!! God bless you all.

(Rohrabacher/BE) May 24, 1984 2:00 p.m. .

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: BALLYPOREEN SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 1984

Nancy and I are most grateful to be with you today; to be with ah wing-cher nah-hair-in (the family of Ireland). It is difficult to express my appreciation to all of you. I feel like I am about to drown everyone in a bath of nostalgia.

of all the honors and gifts afforded me as President, this visit is one I will cherish dearly. You see, I didn't know much about my family background. Not because of a lack of interest, was appeared by the real of a lack of interest, but because my father died at an early age without telling me about our roots. Now, thanks to you and efforts of good people who have dug into the history of a poor immigrant family, I know, at last, whence I came. This has given my soul a new contentment; and it is a joyous feeling; it is like coming home after a long journey.

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From what I'm told, we were a poor family. But my ancestors took with them a treasure, an indomitable spirit that was cultivated in the rich soil of this County.

And today I come back to you, as a descendant of people who are buried here in paupers' graves. Perhaps this is God's way of reminding us that we must always treat every individual, no matter what his or her station in life, with dignity and respect. And who knows? Someday that person's child or grandchild might grow up to become Prime Minister of Ireland, or President of the United States.

Looking around town today, I was struck by the similarity

TAMPICO
between Ballyporeen and Discon, the small town in Illinois in WHEST
which I was raised. Of course, there is one thing you have that

TAMPICO
we didn't have in Primer We didn't have a Ronald Reagan lounge
in our town. But the spirit is the same, this spirit of warmth,

TAMPICO
friendliness, and openness in Discon and Ballyporeen, and you make
me feel very much at home.

What unites us is our shared heritage, and the common values of our two peoples. So many Irish men and women, from every walk of life, played a role in creating the dream of America. I'm certainly proud to be part of that great Irish-American tradition. From the time of our revolution when Irishmen filled the ranks of the Continental Army, to the building of the railroads, to the cultural contributions of individuals like the magnificent tenor John McKormak, and the athletic achievements of the great heavyweight boxing champion, John L. Sullivan . . . all of them are part of a great legacy.

Speaking of sports, I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate an organization of which all Irishmen and women can be proud, an organization that this year is celebrating its 100th anniversary: The Gaelic Athletic Association. I understand it was formed 100 years ago in Tipperary to foster the dance, culture, and games of traditional Ireland. Some of you may be aware that I began my career as a sports broadcaster, so I had an early appreciation for sporting competition.

Congratulations to all of you during this G.A.A. centennial celebration.

I also understand that not too far from here is the home of the great Irish journalist and songwriter, Charles Joseph Kickham, who is remembered by so many for his serial character Nellie Leahy [lah-he]. Those were back in the days when tales like that of poor Nellie and organizations like the G.A.A. were expressions of an Irish personality seeking its own identity.

This Irish identity flourished in the United States. Irish men and women, proud of their heritage, can be found in every walk of life. I even have some of them in my Cabinet. One of them almost has the same name -- Secretary of the Treasury, Don Regan. He spells it R-E-G-A-N. We're all of the same clan, all cousins. I tried to tell the Secretary one day that his branch of the family just couldn't handle as many letters as ours. Then I received a paper from Ireland that told me that in the clan to which we belong, those who said Regan and spelled it that way were the professional people and the educators, and only the common laborers called it Reagan. So meet a common laborer.

The bond between our two countries runs deep and strong, and I am proud to be here in recognition and celebration of the tie that binds. My roots in Ballyporeen, County Tipperary, are little different than millions of other Americans who find their roots in towns and counties all over the Isle of Erin. I just feel exceptionally lucky to have this chance to visit you.

Last year a member of my staff came through town and recorded some messages from you. It was quite a tape, and I was moved deeply by the sentiments you expressed. One of your townsmen sang me a bit of a tune about Shawn Tracy and a few lines stuck in my mind. They went like this: And I'll never more roam, from my own native home, in Tipperary so far away.

Well, the Reagans roamed to America, but we're back. Nancy and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts for coming out to welcome us.

And one last thing, I'm not referring to a certain Irish politician back in the States when I say this: UP TIP!! God bless you all.

The President has seen

(ROHRABACHER) SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 1984

DUBLIN STATE DINNER TOAST

215 050 SS SP889

PRIME MINISTER AND MRS. FITZGERALD, (AH COR-JAH GALE), MY IRISH FRIENDS, NANCY AND I ARE DELIGHTED TO BE HERE IN THE HOMELAND OF MY ANCESTORS, AND DELIGHTED TO BE WITH ALL OF YOU THIS EVENING.

EVER SINCE WE ARRIVED IN SHANNON, WE
HAVE MARVELLED AT THE MAGNIFICENT GREEN OF
YOUR HILLS AND MEADOWS. IT IS EVEN MORE
BRILLIANT THAN I HAD REMEMBERED. LIKEWISE,
THE WARMTH AND KINDREDSHIP OF YOUR PEOPLE
DURING OUR VISIT HAS TOUCHED US DEEPLY. MAY
I OFFER IN RETURN A HEARTFELT THANK YOU FROM
BOTH NANCY AND ME.

EVERY AMERICAN, EVEN THOSE NOT LUCKY
ENOUGH TO BE OF IRISH BACKGROUND, HAS MUCH
TO BE GRATEFUL FOR TO THE ISLE OF ERIN. I
THINK I HAVE SOME FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE OF
THIS YOU SEE, I CURRENTLY RESIDE IN A
HOUSE THAT WAS DESIGNED BY AN IRISHMAN.

WE ALL KNOW THE IRISH NAMES AND THE LISTS OF THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS, WHICH ARE TOO NUMEROUS FOR ME TO REPEAT AGAIN THIS EVENING.

LATELY, HOWEVER, IT'S COME TO MY ATTENTION THAT NOT ONLY HAVE IRELAND'S OWN HAD GREAT IMPACT ON AMERICA, BUT THE OPPOSITE HAS ALSO BEEN TRUE.

THE CROSS POLLINATION OF AMERICAN AND IRISH LIBERTY IS TRULY AN HISTORIC PHENOMENON. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, A PREEMINENT INFLUENCE ON THE COURSE OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY, VISITED HERE DURING OUR REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD. AS PRIME MINISTER FITZGERALD POINTED OUT TO ME DURING HIS LAST VISIT TO WASHINGTON, MORE THAN JUST A "COUPLE" OF AMERICAN PRESIDENTS -- INCLUDING THIS ONE -- DESCEND FROM THIS LAND.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN,
INDIVIDUALS SIGNIFICANT TO THE DEVELOPMENT
OF IRISH LIBERTY WERE MUCH AFFECTED BY WHAT
WAS HAPPENING IN AMERICA.

DANIEL O'CONNELL, A NATIONALIST HERO AND A
TRUE HUMANITARIAN, WAS INFLUENCED BY OUR
GREAT PAMPHLETEER, THOMAS PAINE, HE WAS AN
ADMIRER OF GEORGE WASHINGTON AS WELL. THE
GREAT PARLIAMENTARIAN CHARLES STEWART
PARNELL JOURNEYED TO AMERICA AS A YOUTH, A
JOURNEY WHICH MAY WELL HAVE COLORED HIS
POLITICAL VIEWS OF THE WORLD. AND, OF
COURSE, EAMON DE VALERA, YOUR THIRD
PRESIDENT, WAS ACTUALLY BORN IN THE UNITED
STATES.

YET, WITH OUR COUNTRIES SO CLOSE, THERE ARE SOME INFLUENCES WE ARE NOT SO PROUD OF.

I BELIEVE I SPEAK FOR ALL AMERICANS OF IRISH DESCENT WHO NOW HOLD ELECTED OFFICE - MEN AND WOMEN OF BOTH POLITICAL PARTIES - WHEN I JOIN YOU IN CONDEMNING ANY MISGUIDED AMERICAN WHO SUPPORTS TERRORISTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND. I WANT TO OFFER MY THANKS TO PRIME MINISTER FITZGERALD FOR HIS STRONG STAND ON THIS ISSUE.

WHEN HE LAST VISITED WASHINGTON, HE
ARTICULATED A MESSAGE OF CONVICTION AND
COURAGE, AND, BY DOING SO, HE JUST MAY HAVE
SAVED SOME INNOCENT LIVES.

OSCAR WILDE HAD A COMMENT ON WAR THAT
IS ALSO APPLICABLE TO TERRORISM. WHEN IT
IS LOOKED UPON AS VULGAR, WILDE SAID, "IT
WILL CEASE TO BE POPULAR. I CAN'T THINK OF
ANYTHING MORE VULGAR THAN AMERICANS
PROVIDING ANYONE IN IRELAND THE MEANS OF
KILLING-HIS FELLOW MAN.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE OVERWHELMINGLY
SUPPORT PEACEFUL EFFORTS TO RECONCILE THE
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO TRADITIONS ON
THIS ISLAND. WE PRAY THERE WILL BE A NEW
DAWN, (AND THAT IT WILL COME SOON,) WHEN BOTH
CATHOLICS AND PROTESTANTS IN NORTHERN
IRELAND CAN LIVE IN THE SUNLIGHT OF A
PEACEFUL AND JUST SOCIETY, FREE FROM THE
NIGHTMARE OF INTIMIDATION AND VIOLENCE.

WE ARE FOLLOWING, WITH KEEN INTEREST,
THE EFFORTS YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN MAKING,
AND WE WISH YOU SUCCESS. WE ESPECIALLY
WELCOME THE HARD WORK AND THOUGHT THAT WENT
INTO THE NEW IRELAND FORUM'S REPORT. WE
HOPE IT WILL STRENGTHEN ANGLO-IRISH
COOPERATION IN RESOLVING THE NORTHERN
IRELAND PROBLEM THROUGH A PEACEFUL
RECONCILIATION BETWEEN PROTESTANTS AND
CATHOLICS.

WITH THIS PROBLEM AT HOME, HAS BEEN EXERTING AN ADMIRABLE INFLUENCE INTERNATIONALLY. AS PEACEKEEPERS WORKING WITHIN THE STRUCTURE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, YOU'VE TAKEN GREAT RISKS FOR PEACE. YOUR BILATERAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO LESS FORTUNATE COUNTRIES IS A TRIBUTE TO YOUR GENEROSITY AND YOUR HUMANITARIANISM, AS IS THE PERSONAL DEDICATION OF IRISH MEN AND WOMEN ENGAGED IN VOLUNTARY SERVICE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

ROLE IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. WE LOOK
FORWARD TO CONSULTING CLOSELY WITH YOUR
GOVERNMENT DURING IRELAND'S FORTHCOMING
PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
COMMISSION. IRELAND HAS ALWAYS PROMOTED AN
OPEN AND MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE
UNITED STATES AND THE MEMBER STATES OF THE
COMMUNITY. I KNOW WE CAN COUNT ON A
CONTINUATION OF THAT FINE AND VERY PRACTICAL
TRADITION.

WE RESPECT IRELAND'S INDEPENDENT COURSE
IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, WE RESPECT
IRELAND'S CONTRIBUTIONS, WHICH WERE
PREDICTED BY PRESIDENT KENNEDY, AS A MAKER
AND SHAPER OF WORLD PEACE, AND WE RESPECT
THE DEMOCRATIC AND HUMANITARIAN VALUES
EMBODIED IN YOUR ACTIONS. (TEE-SHOCK), OUR
PEOPLE HAVE A COMMON LOVE OF FREEDOM AND A
SENSE OF DECENCY THAT TRANSCENDS POLITICAL
CONSIDERATION.

IN MANY RESPECTS, MY JOURNEY HERE IS A
CELEBRATION OF OUR TIES OF IDEALS, AS WELL
AS FAMILY. THEY ARE TIES THAT SECURE OUR
FRIENDSHIP AND ENSURE OUR GOOD WILL.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, PLEASE JOIN ME IN A TOAST TO THE PRESIDENT OF IRELAND.

# # #

The President has seen\_\_\_\_

(NOONAN)

MONDAY, JUNE 4, 1984

DEPARTURE FROM IRELAND

228759CU 57889

PRESIDENT AND MRS. HILLERY, PRIME
MINISTER AND MRS. FITZGERALD, ALL MY NEW
FRIENDS; WHAT A WONDERFUL VISIT THIS HAS
BEEN FOR US, WHAT A WONDERFUL HOMECOMING.

YOUR COUNTRY HAS GIVEN US A WHOLE WORLD OF
MEMORIES AND IMAGES, FROM THE GENTLE BEAUTY
OF GALWAY TO THE BUSY HUM OF DUBLIN, FROM
THE PEACEFULNESS OF BALLYPOREEN TO THE
LOVELINESS OF SWEET SHANNON. YOU GAVE US
"A HUNDRED THOUSAND WELCOMES." I WON'T TRY
TO SAY THAT IN GAELIC, BUT I'VE MASTERED AT
LEAST A BIT OF YOUR NATIVE TONGUE. I NOW
CALL NANCY (MA-VOR-NEEN).

YOUR WARMTH HAS TOUCHED OUR HEARTS.

YOU HAVE MADE THIS TRAVELLER FEEL LIKE ONE
OF THE FAMILY. BUT NOW IT IS TIME TO SAY
GOODBYE. AND AS I LEAVE, I FEEL SUCH A TUG,
AND I WANT TO STAY WITH YOU AND LAUGH AND
TALK SOME MORE.

THERE IS SOMETHING IN YOUR COUNTRY THAT MAKES THE AMERICAN IRISH FEEL LIKE EXILES WHEN THEY LEAVE, AS IF THEY'RE LEAVING A PART OF THEMSELVES BEHIND.

THIS IS MY THIRD VISIT TO YOUR COUNTRY.

I REMEMBER MY FIRST, 35 YEARS AGO. I WALKED

THE STREETS OF DUBLIN, AND I WENT BY THE

ABBEY THEATRE AND THE GRESHAM HOTEL, AND THE

STROLLED DOWN O'CONNELL STREET AND SAW THE

BULLET MARKS ON THE OLD POST OFFICE.

AND THAT NIGHT, I FOLLOWED THE SOUND OF

MUSIC TO THE ENTRANCE OF A BALLROOM AND

PEERED IN AT A UNIVERSITY DANCE. I SAW THE

YOUNG MEN DRESSED IN WHITE TIE AND TAILS,

AND THE YOUNG WOMEN IN FLOWING GOWNS, AND I

WATCHED THEM DO A GRACEFUL WALTZ AND I

WISHED THE WORLD WOULD JUST SLOW DOWN A

LITTLE AND MAKE MORE ROOM FOR SUCH

GRACIOUSNESS.

THAT'S HOW NANCY AND I FEEL TODAY. WE WISH THE WORLD WOULD JUST SLOW DOWN SO WE COULD HAVE MORE TIME WITH YOU.

WHEN I CAME BACK TO IRELAND A FEW YEARS AGO, I WENT OUT TO THE WEST AND SAW THE RUINS OF THE CHAPEL WHERE THEY SAY ST. PATRICK RAISED THE FIRST CROSS ON IRISH SOIL. AND NEARBY THERE WAS A WELL FED BY UNDERGROUND SPRINGS FROM A HILL FAR AWAY—AND THEY TOLD ME IT WAS A WISHING WELL, SO NANCY AND I THREW IN SOME COINS AND MADE A WISH—AND A FEW DAYS AGO, WHEN WE LANDED IN SHANNON AGAIN, OUR WISH CAME TRUE.

ANOTHER WISH THIS MORNING. WE WANT TO COME
BACK WHEN MY WORK IS DONE IN WASHINGTON.
BY MY CALCULATIONS THAT WILL BE IN JANUARY
OF 1989, THOUGH I UNDERSTAND THERE IS SOME
DISAGREEMENT ON THAT. BUT WHEN I COME BACK
I'LL BE ABLE TO STAY LONGER, AND I HOPE I
CAN SEE YOU ALL AGAIN . . .

AMERICA. WE'RE TIED BY TIES OF BLOOD, TIES OF HISTORY -- AND BY A NATURAL AFFINITY AND AFFECTION.

AMERICA LOVES THE IRISH. I HOPE THE IRISH ALWAYS LOVE AMERICA. YOU ARE IN OUR HEARTS FOREVER, AND AS I LEAVE THIS PLACE I THINK, AGAIN, OF THE WORDS OF A POEM:

"PEARLY ARE THE SKIES IN THE COUNTRY OF MY FATHERS,

PURPLE ARE THY MOUNTAINS, HOME OF MY HEART.

MOTHER OF MY YEARNING, LOVE OF ALL MY LONGINGS,

KEEP ME IN REMEMBRANCE, LONG LEAGUES APART."

WILL KEEP YOU IN REMEMBRANCE, LONG LEAGUES APART -- AND WILL REMEMBER YOUR WARMTH AND YOUR KINDNESS FOREVER.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

# # #

DEERFIELD LUNCHEON TOAST

215 045 SS

PRESIDENT AND MRS. HILLERY, PRIME MINISTER AND MRS. FITZGERALD, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

MRS. REAGAN AND I ARE DELIGHTED TO
WELCOME YOU HERE THIS AFTERNOON. WE HOPE TO
RETURN THE KIND HOSPITALITY THAT HAS BEEN
EXTENDED TO US FROM THE MOMENT WE SET FOOT
ON THIS EMERALD ISLE. BY THE WAY, I NOTICED
THAT THIS HOUSE HAS A BLUE ROOM, A CORAL
ROOM, AND A GOLD ROOM -- THAT REMINDS ME OF
THE WHITE HOUSE BACK IN WASHINGTON. AS YOU
MAY HAVE SEEN WHEN YOU VISITED WASHINGTON,
MR. PRIME MINISTER, THE WHITE HOUSE IS A
GOOD HOME FOR AN IRISHMAN. EVERY
MARCH 17TH, I CAN HONOR ST. PATRICK BY
SPENDING ALL DAY IN THE GREEN ROOM.

The President has seen

FOR AMERICANS, THE VERY MENTION OF IRELAND HOLDS A MAGICAL SENSE OF ALLURE. IT BRINGS TO MIND IMAGES OF GREEN PASTURES, RUGGED HIGHLANDS, AND WIDE LAKES—— LIKE (LOCK) CONN, CORRIB, AND KILLARNEY; IMAGES OF A LOVELY VILLAGE SQUARE IN GALWAY, OR THE GRACEFUL GEORGIAN ARCHITECTURE HERE IN DUBLIN.

PERHAPS WHAT STRIKES AMERICANS MOST
WHEN THEY VISIT IRELAND IS THAT YOURS IS A
LAND OF MANY FACES — A FACE OF RICH AND
UNPARALLELED BEAUTY; A FACE OF A PROUD AND
GLORIOUS PAST; AND A FACE OF A YOUNG,
BRIGHT, AND HOPEFUL FUTURE.

MORE THAN EIGHT CENTURIES BEFORE

COLUMBUS DISCOVERED THE NEW WORLD, IRISH

MONASTERIES WERE GREAT CENTERS OF FAITH AND

LEARNING. THESE WERE WONDERFUL YEARS, YEARS

WHEN SCHOLARS FROM ALL OVER EUROPE CAME HERE

TO STUDY THEOLOGY, PHILOSOPHY, GREEK, AND

LATIN.

YOUR ANCESTORS CREATED STUNNING, ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPTS, INCLUDING A BOOK MANY CONSIDER THE MOST BEAUTIFUL EVER MADE, THE BOOK OF KELLS.

TODAY, I BELIEVE THAT YOU, AND YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS, ARE MAKING IRELAND YOUNG AGAIN.—YOUNG IN YOUR SPIRIT OF HOPE AND YOUR FAITH IN THE FUTURE, YOUNG IN YOUR DETERMINATION TO CREATE NEW OPPORTUNITIES AND ATTRACT NEW TECHNOLOGIES TO HELP YOUR ECONOMY GROW, AND, YES, YOU ARE YOUNG IN HEART, READY TO GIVE AND FORGIVE, READY TO REACH OUT IN GOODNESS, IN FRIENDSHIP, AND IN LOVE.

AMERICA, OF COURSE, REMAINS A YOUNG
NATION. ONLY A FEW CENTURIES HAVE PASSED
SINCE THE FIRST SETTLERS LANDED ON OUR
EASTERN SHORES. THESE HARDY MEN AND WOMEN,
AND THOSE WHO FOLLOWED THEM, CAME FROM
VIRTUALLY EVERY NATION ON EARTH.

IRELAND ALONE. AS THOSE IMMIGRANTS CLEARED

LAND, BUILT TOWNS, AND ESTABLISHED

LEGISLATURES, THEY CREATED A NEW AND

DISTINCTLY AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE -- YET THEY

CONTINUED TO CHERISH MEMORIES OF THEIR

HOMELANDS. TODAY, IRELAND AND THE UNITED

STATES SHARE A LIVING BOND: THE MANY IRISH

PEOPLE WHO HAVE COUSINS IN AMERICA, AND THE

40 MILLION AMERICANS OF IRISH DESCENT WHO

ALWAYS KEEP A SPECIAL PLACE FOR THIS ISLAND

IN OUR HEARTS.

OUR TWO COUNTRIES SHARE A SECOND

BOND -- A BOND OF FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS AND

ENDURING VALUES. WE BOTH ESTEEM HUMAN

LIBERTY; WE BOTH CHERISH THE BLESSING OF

PEACE. AND, AS IRELAND WORKS TO FOSTER

INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING IN THIS TROUBLED

WORLD, YOU WILL HAVE THE ADMIRATION, THE

RESPECT, AND THE SUPPORT OF THE UNITED

STATES.

WE PLEDGE OUR UNREMITTING EFFORT FOR THE CAUSE OF PEACE WITH FREEDOM AND HUMAN DIGNITY.

AS YOU MAY KNOW, MY OWN FAMILY LEFT
IRELAND FOR THE UNITED STATES MORE THAN

100 YEARS AGO. THIS HOMECOMING TO THE LAND
OF MY ANCESTORS -- THE ISLAND WHERE FOR SO
MANY CENTURIES MY PEOPLE LIVED AND WORKED
AND WORSHIPPED - HAS MOVED ME MORE DEEPLY
THAN I CAN SAY. AS NANCY AND I DRAW OUR
VISIT TO A CLOSE, KNOW THAT MANY
IRISH-AMERICANS WHO CAN'T BE HERE TODAY WILL
WATCH FROM HOME. THEY ARE WITH US IN
SPIRIT, SHARING A DEEP AFFECTION FOR IRELAND
AND HER PEOPLE -- AN AFFECTION SHARED, AS
WELL, BY YOUR GREAT POET, WILLIAM BUTLER
YEATS, WHEN HE WROTE:

"LAND OF HEART'S DESIRE,
WHERE BEAUTY HAS NO EBB . . .
BUT JOY IS WISDOM, TIME AN ENDLESS
SONG."

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, PLEASE JOIN ME IN A TOAST TO THE PRESIDENT OF IRELAND.

# # #