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DRAFT REMARKS FOR TANAISTE AND  
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MR BRIAN LENIHAN, T.D.

FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK, CAPITAL HILTON HOTEL

17 MARCH, 1987.

N.9-P.3

I am honoured to be here with you this evening, the feast day of Ireland's national patron, St. Patrick. It is good to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in any part of the world. However, there is something very special about celebrating it in the United States and particularly in the company of the most aptly named Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

This is my first visit abroad since I took up office as Foreign Minister in the new Irish Government last week. It is a great pleasure for me to make this visit to the United States, to renew old acquaintances and to develop further the bonds of friendship which link our two countries together. Ours is a unique relationship based on shared ideals and ties of kinship.

We in Ireland are justifiably proud of the role which the Irish here played in the political, economic and cultural life of the United States. Your continuing affection for Ireland and your interest in our affairs, political and economic, are indeed welcome. And just as Irish people have had a major role to play in the development of the United States, so too Americans can contribute in a practical way to the future prosperity of Ireland.

2

Americans are always welcome to Ireland as tourists. But equally you are welcome as businessmen and investors. My Government has set as its priority the revitalising of the Irish economy. Like many other countries throughout the world we have been affected by the world recession. Our task now is to harness our resources, natural and human, in the most efficient way so that we can inject a new dynamism into our economy and create rapid growth in the years ahead.

In tourism our aim is to expand our share of the growing world tourist market. We will campaign in the United States and spare no effort to increase the number of American visitors to Ireland. Each year thousands of Americans come to our country to enjoy the scenery and the hospitality which Ireland offers in a special way. We want more of you to come and visit us. We know you will enjoy it and you will be welcomed as friends, both Irish Americans and Americans of all other ethnic traditions.

Investors too are most welcome. Ireland today offers one of the most profitable centres for U.S. businessmen investing abroad. Many U.S. companies have already established profitable companies in Ireland and each year sees further U.S. investment in our country. We wish to encourage more U.S. companies to locate in Ireland. It is a development of benefit to us both. Americans have the opportunity to avail of our favourable investment climate to pursue successful business activities while we gain jobs and access to U.S. expertise especially in the field of high technology. As U.S. investors have found, our young people are highly skilled and adaptable and form one of the

3

at educated workforces in Europe. In addition Ireland is an excellent geographical location for U.S. companies exporting to the European market. Ireland is a member of the European Economic Community and can offer all the advantages of Community membership.

As I mentioned earlier we are encouraged by the interest and sympathy which the U.S. has shown towards the efforts of successive Irish Governments to find a lasting solution to the single unresolved major problem in Anglo-Irish relations. We believe that an Ireland united by agreement is the only lasting basis for peace and stability on our island.

We intend to work through the Conference established under the Anglo-Irish Agreement. We will use the Conference to improve the position of Nationalists in Northern Ireland. In particular we are anxious to see reform in the administration of justice in Northern Ireland, an end to discrimination in employment and much greater economic and social co-operation between North and South.

The generous contribution by the United States Government to the International Fund for Ireland will greatly assist in promoting economic and social development and in the work of reconciliation. The U.S. contribution to the Fund reflects the interest and concern of the administration and Congress in Ireland. It also reflects the ties of kinship between our two countries. The Irish people will not forget your generosity and I can assure you that the United States' contribution will be of significant benefit to both parts of Ireland.