

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

## IRELAND



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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 1, 1981

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

Let me take this opportunity to thank you for your kind invitation to William Clark, my Deputy Secretary of State, to visit Ireland.

In addition to reviewing the many issues we face together around the world, Bill will want to hear your views on Northern Ireland. The problems there are of tremendous concern to me, and I will continue to affirm the principles of my St. Patrick's Day statement -- support for just and peaceful solutions and condemnation of all terrorism and violence.

We believe a lasting solution can be found only in a process of reconciliation between the two Irish political traditions and between Britain and Ireland. The United States welcomes the efforts of the Irish and British Governments in widening the framework of their cooperation to this end.

But as much as our hearts long for a settlement, it is not for the United States to chart the course others must follow. If the solutions are to endure, they must come from the people themselves. I wish to add a personal note of my support and encouragement for the efforts you and Prime Minister Thatcher have made in widening the framework of your cooperation to the achievement of that goal.

I am sorry that your schedule did not permit a visit to the United States this fall, but if it is possible for you to be here next March 17, I would be most honored if you could join me for lunch on that day.

Sincerely,

*Ronald Reagan*

His Excellency  
Dr. Garret FitzGerald  
Prime Minister of Ireland  
Dublin