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Northern Ireland Office
Stormont Castle
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9/15/94

President William J Clinton
Office of the President of
the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
NW Washington DC 20500

- 8 NOV 1994

PUBLIC OFFICE

November 1994

Mr T
Dear Mr. President:

Mr. Callaghan
Papers for file
NM

Mr. Longman
Mr. Gibson
Mr. Cresswell

I should like to express our warm welcome for your announcement of such a generous package of US assistance for the process of peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland.

The British Government is most grateful for the US Administration's support for the developing peace process. Your Government's announcement of an increased contribution to the International Fund for Ireland in 1996 and 1997 is particularly welcome.

I look forward keenly to Commerce Secretary Brown's visit to Belfast next month, and to your own Investment Conference in Philadelphia next Spring.

The prospects are brighter than we could have expected even a year ago, but they are still far from certain. I have no doubt that your assistance, together with that from the EU, in supporting the endeavours of the British and Irish Governments, will help very valuably to maximise the prospects of a lasting peace.

Sincerely,

Patrick Mayhew

SOFS/20669

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S STATEMENT OF 1 NOVEMBER 1994

"SUPPORTING PEACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND"

MAIN POINTS

1. White House Conference for Trade and Investment in Ireland

The President will host this Conference in April 1995 in Philadelphia. The British and Irish Governments, the IFI and "private sector and political groups" will be involved. The Conference will aim "to show US companies that sustained peace is dramatically improving business opportunities on the island of Ireland and, particularly, in Northern Ireland and the border counties".

2. Commerce Secretary Brown to attend PM's Belfast Conference

Secretary Brown will lead the US delegation to the Prime Minister's December investment conference in Belfast. He is tasked with identifying "concrete new opportunities for increased business links between NI and the US". He will also travel to Dublin "for consultations".

3. Increased funding for the IFI

Congressional approval will be sought to increase funding by an additional \$10m in fiscal year 1996 and in 1997, to make a total commitment of \$30m for each year. Funding will "support the IFI in undertaking the vital new initiatives needed to consolidate the gains of peace in NI and the border counties and to build cross-community economic and political cooperation".

4. Department of Commerce Programs

Enhanced cooperation with NI in science and technology through Manufacturing Extension Partnerships, innovation programs, and a new Business Information Center for Trade and Investment. There will also be a "business intern training program to bring managers and business technical experts to train with US companies".

5. USIA Program

US Information Agency is to expand its programs in NI "increasing exchanges of persons as well as planning speakers

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and seminars on such topics as conflict resolution".

6 National Endowment for Democracy

Presently funding a political party training program in NI, agency is to be encouraged to "seek additional opportunities to strengthen and expand its programs".

7. US Agency for International Development

USAID "to explore ways to work with the IFI to increase the impact of its business enterprise program on small and micro-enterprises.

8. Trade and Development Agency

Agency will lead a technical delegation to NI "to identify infrastructure and industrial projects that represent mutually beneficial trade and investment opportunities".

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 1, 1994

SUPPORTING PEACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The United States attaches great importance to the search for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland, both in the context of our world-wide commitment to end terrorism and our desire to promote democratic solutions to conflicts. Our close bonds of history, culture and tradition with Ireland and the United Kingdom provide us with a unique role in helping to achieve these goals.

We have encouraged and supported the courageous efforts of Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds and British Prime Minister John Major to establish a new framework for peace and justice in Northern Ireland. For the first time in a generation, both Republican and Loyalist paramilitaries have declared cease-fires. Each day that passes without terrorism strengthens the hope that the bomb and the bullet are gone for good from the politics of Ireland.

The President has pledged to do all he can to support the building of peace in Northern Ireland. The United States wants to do its part to ensure that peace brings to Ireland new opportunities for job growth and economic prosperity, which in turn will help ensure that this newfound peace is a stable and lasting one.

The promise of peace will allow Americans to build on the strong business, trade, political and cultural links we already enjoy with Ireland, north and south. The United States is the most important source of internationally mobile investment in Northern Ireland and in the Republic. Forty U.S. companies are already operating in Northern Ireland, providing some 8,000 jobs. In addition, the Administration strongly supports the International Fund for Ireland, which funds a broad range of economic and social development projects.

This present opportunity for lasting peace in Ireland is the chance of a generation; it must be seized and supported. The President therefore has directed his Administration to undertake the following initiatives in the coming months to increase our support for the political and economic revitalization of Northern Ireland and the border countries:

① Conference - President - April 1995

② for brain coming here.

③ from IRA

④ Commerce programmes - enhance cooperation, inter-training

⑤ USIA prog.

⑥ USIA to work with IRA

⑦ US Trade + Econ. Aff. delegate to NI

⑧ Overall continuing commitment

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White House Conference for Trade and Investment

The President will host a White House Conference for Trade and Investment in Ireland. The Conference is planned for April 1995 in Philadelphia. He has instructed the Department of State to name a coordinator to work with Secretary Brown and his staff, the International Fund for Ireland, the Irish and British governments and private sector and political groups to organize and support the conference. The President looks forward to participating in this Conference, which will aim to show U.S. companies that sustained peace is dramatically improving business opportunities on the island of Ireland and, particularly, in Northern Ireland and the border counties. American businessmen should be in on the ground floor of these new opportunities; this will be good for us and good for Irish peace and reconciliation.

Commerce Secretary Brown to attend Belfast Investment Conference

Commerce Secretary Ron Brown will travel to Belfast in December 1994 to lead the U.S. delegation to Prime Minister Major's Investment Conference for Northern Ireland, where the President has instructed him to identify concrete new opportunities for increased business links between Northern Ireland and the U.S. Secretary Brown will also travel to Dublin for consultations. In both cities, he will prepare the groundwork for the White House Conference for Trade and Investment in Ireland. The President has also asked Secretary Brown to present the new initiatives he identifies at the White House Conference in April.

Increased funding for the IFI

The President is committed to continued strong U.S. support for the International Fund for Ireland. In addition to our planned obligation of almost \$20 million to the Fund in Fiscal Year 1995, we will seek Congressional concurrence to increase IFI funding by an additional \$10 million in Fiscal Year 1996 and in Fiscal Year 1997 for a total of \$30 million each year. This increase will bring the total commitment of this Administration to the Fund to \$100 million. The IFI has steadily strengthened and adjusted its programs and management over the years. We expect such progress to continue. This additional funding will support the IFI in undertaking the vital new initiatives that are needed to consolidate the gains of peace in Northern Ireland and the border counties and to build cross-community economic and political cooperation. We will work with it to strengthen its programs even further and particularly to address such entrenched problems as the high rates of long-term unemployment in Northern Ireland and the border counties.

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Department of Commerce programs

The President has directed the Department of Commerce to enhance our cooperation with Northern Ireland in science and technology, especially through strengthened collaboration with our Manufacturing Extension Partnerships and other programs to encourage technological innovation. The Commerce Department will also establish a Business Information Center for Trade and Investment and review other ways to promote business opportunities in Northern Ireland and the border counties.

The Department of Commerce will also initiate a business intern training program to bring managers and business technical experts to train with U.S. companies. This program will expedite the learning of advanced management and production skills and begin operating in fiscal year 1996 with approximately \$1 million in bilateral economic assistance funds. It will help improve the productive abilities of industry in Northern Ireland and the border counties and will also generate increased business between U.S. firms and companies in Northern Ireland -- creating more jobs both there and here.

USIA programs

The President has instructed the United States Information Agency to expand its programs in Northern Ireland in view of the changing political climate, increasing exchanges of persons as well as planning speakers and seminars on such topics as conflict resolution. In addition, USIA will open its grant competitions in such areas as conflict resolution to allow American non-profit organizations to submit proposals for projects in Northern Ireland to support the momentum for peace and reconciliation.

National Endowment for Democracy

The President will encourage the National Endowment for Democracy, which is presently funding a political party training program in Northern Ireland, to seek additional opportunities to strengthen and expand its programs there.

U.S. Agency for International Development

The President has asked USAID to explore ways to work with the IFI to increase the impact of its business enterprise program on small and micro-enterprises. Thomas A. Dine, USAID Assistant Administrator for Europe and the New Independent States, will travel through Northern Ireland and the border counties beginning November 13 to review existing IFI programs and determine whether

approaches used by USAID elsewhere may have application in Northern Ireland.

Trade and Development Agency

The U.S. Trade and Development Agency will lead a technical delegation to Northern Ireland to identify infrastructure and industrial projects that represent mutually beneficial trade and investment opportunities. Depending upon the findings of the delegation, future activities might include the funding of feasibility studies and/or the sponsorship of reverse trade missions.

A Continuing Commitment

We will continue to look for opportunities to support the efforts of the British and Irish governments and of democratic leaders in Northern Ireland to build on and for peace. We encourage the millions of Americans who want to contribute to peace in Ireland to do the same.
