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Address by the Taoiseach, Dr. Garret FitzGerald, T.D.,
on the Arrival of Vice President George Bush and Mrs. Bush at
Dublin Airport for an Official Visit to Ireland,
Monday, 4th July, 1983.

Mr. Vice President,

Failte go hÉirinn. Welcome to Ireland.

We are delighted that you and Mrs. Bush are with us, and we are particularly happy that you are celebrating your national holiday in Ireland. The great event that is commemorated today, the independence of the United States, reverberated more loudly in every corner of this island than anywhere else on earth outside your own country. Irishmen and Irish women, regardless of political tradition, regardless of political allegiance, regardless of their own differences, all take an almost personal pride in the contribution of earlier generations of the Irish to the achievement of American independence, and we all share your joy in its celebration today.

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On behalf of my fellow citizens I send warm greetings today to all Americans living in Ireland, and I would ask you Mr. Vice President to convey our best wishes to the President of the United States, to all other Americans of Irish descent, and to all Americans everywhere.

The links between our peoples could hardly be closer or deeper in human terms. We are, moreover, deeply appreciative of the positive and effective interest shown by your Government and people in the solution of Irish problems: in support for American investment in this country; and in support for the need for joint efforts by the British and Irish Governments towards the solution of the tragic crisis of Northern Ireland through the reconciliation of the two great Irish traditions.

I look forward to our talks on these and other major issues, and I am sure that your visit will help substantially towards developing understanding between the United States and the European Community to which we the Irish enthusiastically belong, and towards reconfirming the warm regard which unites our two peoples.