

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

## IRELAND



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March 13, 1985

SPEAKER O'NEILL'S ARRIVAL STATEMENT IN DUBLIN

My colleagues and I are delighted to be here as part of the continuing interchange between the Irish Parliament and U.S. Congress. As members of the United States Congress and as members of the Friends of Ireland we have a deep interest in Ireland and a particular concern about Northern Ireland. We come to learn, to exchange views, and to pledge our support for peace and reconciliation. We look towards a future in which all the Irish people will prosper and advance together. We are ready to do what we can politically and economically to assist in this process.

We also look forward to visiting Cork which this year celebrates the 800th anniversary of its Charter. Any anniversary celebration of that vintage is well worth celebrating. For we Americans of Irish ancestry, Cork has a particular spot in our affection. It is not only the ancestral county for many Americans of Irish extraction, including me, but also many, many more Irish emigrants made their way to the New World via Cork. Thus Cork and its people have a special place in our history and hearts. We are delighted to be here in Ireland at a time when so many American citizens, forty-four million, are looking to the home of their forebears and reaffirming their Irish heritage.