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Visit of former Congressman Morrison  
To Dublin, 7 September 1993

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Visit of former Congressman Morrison

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Speaking Points

Northern Ireland

- We are continuing our efforts to re-launch the Talks process although, realistically, the achievement of an early resumption will not be easy.
- Given the constraints on both communities in Northern Ireland, we feel the best approach may be for the two Governments to take the lead and map out the way forward in close consultation with each other.
- With the paramilitary threat growing in both communities in the North, the dangers of a continuing political vacuum are obvious.
- The two Governments must now use our joint resources to seek the achievement of early progress. This could involve the two Governments identifying the key elements which would need to be part of any new accommodation and presenting proposals to the parties.
- If it eventually proves impossible to get talks underway, the two Governments will obviously have to take stock and to consider what other options exist for making political progress.
- In the meantime, it is essential that both Governments vigorously implement the Anglo-Irish Agreement. At the Inter-Governmental Conference later this week, we will be examining ways of further developing the work of the Conference over coming months.

Peace Envoy

- The Government warmly welcome the concern which President Clinton has shown in relation to the Northern Ireland

problem and his interest in contributing to a solution.

- The support which you and other leading Irish-Americans have lent to efforts to achieve a lasting and fair settlement are also deeply appreciated here.
- The United States, as a friend to all sides, has the potential to play a particularly helpful and positive part as we seek to find a way forward in Northern Ireland.
- The importance, for example, of U.S. support for the Anglo-Irish Agreement and for the International Fund cannot be overestimated.
- We have welcomed from the outset President Clinton's readiness to consider a more active role for the U.S. in relation to Northern Ireland if this appears worthwhile and desirable. We have discussed with the President the forms which a more active US role could take, including the proposal for a "peace envoy".
- Our understanding is that this idea remains very much an option for the President, but that he would wish to defer decisions about it pending developments in relation to a possible resumption of political dialogue. The President has been strongly supportive of the efforts of the Governments to relaunch that dialogue and this is very much appreciated by us.
- The efforts of both Governments remain at present fully focused at present on restarting the dialogue. The support of the U.S. President and of Congress for our efforts is invaluable.
- If it eventually proves impossible to get fresh talks underway, we will obviously have to take stock and to

consider all the other options which exist. It is in that context that the possibility of a more active US role would arise. This is a matter which would require detailed consultation and reflection.

- I hope that we can remain in contact in this regard. There is a responsibility on all of us to consider what we can best do to contribute in a constructive and effective way to the search for political progress and to peace.

#### Immigration

- The Immigration Act of 1990 which you played a pivotal role in sponsoring is, I am glad to say, addressing the problem of undocumented Irish citizens in the U.S.
- Ireland is most appreciative of all your efforts.
- I believe that in the 1992 and 1993 allocations of the visas assigned to Ireland we should be well on the way to resolving the problem.
- I am conscious, however, that generous though this allocation of 48,000 visas is, visa offers are made on the basis of a lottery. A certain number of the undocumented category will not have been made visa offers when this scheme comes to an end next year.

#### Votes for Emigrants

- The Programme for Partnership Government has accepted that there must be constitutional change to give voting rights to emigrants.
- The Minister for the Environment is currently examining the constitutional and practical difficulties of giving effect to this commitment.

International Fund for Ireland

- The Fund is an important symbol of American and international support for the Anglo-Irish Agreement.
  
- Significant in that it is bringing together both sides of the political divide to work together for the benefit of the community.
  
- The decision of the Administration to propose an appropriation for 1994 of \$20 million dollars. was an especially welcome development.

MacBride Principles

- The Government consider the MacBride Principles unobjectionable and have indicated that, as long as there is evidence of discrimination in the North, all appropriate efforts by our friends in the U. S. to remedy the situation are welcome. It is a matter for concerned Irish-Americans to decide for themselves how to express their concern in a constructive way.
  
- The Government see the Fair Employment Act (into which our predecessors had a strong input through the Anglo-Irish Agreement) as a significant step forward. However, any legislation is only as good as its implementation, and we are monitoring the situation closely to ensure that the new Act has the required impact on the ground.
  
- We, of course, welcome U. S. investment in Northern Ireland; this also clearly has a part to play in eliminating the disparity in employment between nationalists and unionists.

Human Rights in Northern Ireland

- We welcome the concern of Irish-Americans about the human rights situation in Northern Ireland.

- Irish Governments have consistently raised human rights issues, including harassment of the nationalist community and the use of lethal force, through the Anglo-Irish Conference.
  
- I took the opportunity of my visit to Washington earlier in the year to update our friends in Congress on the situation. The Embassy in Washington also briefs Members of Congress on a regular basis on our concern.

Tax Deferral

- We were very satisfied at the final outcome in the House and Senate in relation to tax deferral. It was a most worrying period and we owe a great debt of appreciation for their cooperation and support to our friends in Congress.

Department of Foreign Affairs  
6 September 1993

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Tanaiste's interview with RTE (Joe O'Brien) 3 September 1993

Tanaiste: Well at the present time at our meeting in London next week with the Northern Secretary, what we are hoping to do is to resume dialogue. There has been some talk for months about the appointment of a Special Envoy but it is not been progressed, it has not been pursued quite frankly and that's where it's at.

O'Brien: So you are definitely not pursuing the Envoy notion then?

Tanaiste: No. The priority for the present time is to ensure that we can resume dialogue and, given the ongoing conflict in Northern Ireland and the murders, we are determined to get the talks resumed as quickly as possible.

O'Brien: Well, do you accept that your meeting with Jimmy Carter has annoyed the Unionists?

Tanaiste: I think that if it has annoyed anybody it has been misinterpreted. I had a casual conversation with the former President and that's where it remains.

O'Brien: And yet Jimmy Carter is quoted today as saying he would be interested in serving as an Envoy.

Tanaiste: Well, I understand that Mr. Carter since his Presidency has been very involved in conflict resolution and I commend him for that but in relation to discussions on a Special Envoy or a Peace Envoy, it just hasn't been progressed quite frankly. We are hoping to resume the dialogue and that's our priority.

O'Brien: And have you no interest in pursuing the notion of an Envoy?

Tanaiste: At the present time we are resuming our Conference next Friday and the intention is to see what was happening during the summer with our British counterparts, to see if we can resume the dialogue and that's our priority quite frankly.