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Reference Code: 2021/47/88

Creator(s): Department of Foreign Affairs

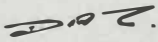
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SECRET

SUMMARY OF TÁNAISTE'S DISCUSSION ON NORTHERN IRELAND
WITH PRESIDENT CLINTON, WASHINGTON DC.
16TH NOVEMBER 1993

1. The President emphasised that "we want to help and to be supportive" on Northern Ireland. He asked the Tánaiste to let him know how this could best be done.
2. The Tánaiste in reply, and after setting out in some detail the context of the present initiative, said it would be enormously helpful if the President could send an encouraging signal to London. Mr Clinton, who listened intently to the Tánaiste's presentation and was clearly well briefed, responded that "we can do that".
3. The President also referred in warm terms to the efforts to advance the peace process, and to recent speeches, of the Taoiseach and Tánaiste. He was conscious that the efforts of the Government, and of Mr Spring personally, had helped greatly to bring about the present degree of progress, and he encouraged the Tánaiste to "hang in there". He also realised that John Major had parliamentary difficulties but if a solution were to be found, the Prime Minister would see his "standing go up". He added that he had been particularly encouraged by the approach taken by the Prime Minister in his Mansion House address the previous evening.
4. The meeting continued on these encouraging lines, with the President saying that he would send John Major "a note about his speech". It concluded with the Tánaiste reiterating the Government's invitation to the President to visit Ireland at a convenient time.


22 November 1993

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 16, 1993

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

The President met today with Irish Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dick Spring at the start of Minister Spring's meeting with National Security Adviser Anthony Lake. The President praised the efforts of the Irish government to advance the prospects for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland. President Clinton also recognized the personal contributions of Minister Spring in advancing the cause of peace and reiterated the U.S. commitment to support in any appropriate way the efforts of the Irish and British governments in this important endeavor.

Mr. Lake and Minister Spring also discussed a wide range of other issues, including their mutual commitment to achieving a GATT agreement by December 15 and the work of the International Fund for Ireland.

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