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CONFIDENTIAL

PST,

John Hume gave me in confidence the attached text which he will give to Speaker Foley as a possible input to President Clinton's remarks on St. Patrick's Day. He is most anxious that it be kept confidential, as he does not want his own role to be apparent if the language is used (although no great detective work would be necessary to spot the Hume-isms!). ✓



Seán O hUiginn  
9 March, 1993

cc: PSS  
Mr. Frank Murray ✓

*Mr. Kingston*  
*Mr 10/3/93*

*Mr O'Sullivan*  
*pl give*  
*the copy*  
*before*  
*departing*  
*for US*  
*hr*  
*10.3.93*

The links between the United States and Ireland are clearly evident and very deep. There is therefore a natural and serious concern at the continuing conflict in Northern Ireland. I congratulate both governments involved, the British and the Irish, on their joint efforts to promote the necessary dialogue that will bring lasting peace.

The United States and my office in particular are clearly willing to offer both governments any assistance that they would regard as helpful.

As President of the United States, I believe that I speak for the vast majority of Americans in saying that I would like to see a lasting agreement between the people of Ireland North and South as to how they share the island together. I would offer any assistance that would contribute to that objective.

I note with interest that the British government has made it clear that if such an agreement was to take form of Irish unity it would legislate for it. That would be the outcome that most Americans would like to see but we agree with both the British and Irish governments that such unity can only be achieved by agreement.

The tragically divided people of Ireland will never be united by any form of force or coercion. The terrible violence being used by some organisations only deepens the divisions among the people. I would call on all such organisations to cease their campaigns of violence

and to use their energies together with everyone else on the island in the difficult but necessary task of breaking down the barriers of distrust which go to the heart of the problem. The problem will not be resolved by victories or defeats but by respect for differences and the full accommodation and respect for the identities of both sections of the divided Irish people. If such a peace process were to take place, then the US would give every possible assistance.