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FOR ASST SECRETARY O BUIGINN FROM AMBASSADOR

RE: WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT SUPPORTING PEACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

- As you are aware, the White House issued its statement on the above tonight. It is entirely satisfactory from our point of view and takes on board most of the points we made, including refocussing the text away from its initial internalist approach and into a broader all-island context.
- Emphasising that "this present opportunity for lasting peace in Ireland is the chance of a generation; it must be seized and supported", the statement announces a series of US initiatives. The most important of these are:
 - (a) a White House Conference on Trade and Investment in Ireland to be hosted by the President and to take place in Philadelphia in April 1995. The statement goes on to say that "the President looks forward to participating in this Conference, which will aim to show US companies that sustained peace is dramatically improving business opportunities on the island of Ireland and, particularly, in Northern Ireland and the border counties". (As you know, the latter is language which we suggested to the White

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House to replace the original internalist text; it will ensure, in particular, that the Conference has a broad all-island mandate.)

- (b) as well as attending the Belfast Conference, Secretary of Commerce Brown will (as we suggested) travel to Dublin for consultation with the Government. The statement helpfully adds that "in both cities, he will prepare the groundwork for the White House Conference for Trade and Investment in Ireland".
- (c) funding for the International Fund for Ireland is to be increased by 50 percent each year for fiscal years 1996 and 1997. This latter decision was taken personally by the President-today. We were told that he was persuaded by our argument that a 50% increase was, politically, of critical importance at this time. We also had some crucial assistance from Senator Pat Leaky in support of our efforts on this point; the White House had particularly asked us to try to bring him, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, on beard for the 50% increase.
- (d) The White House has also announced a series of other initiatives involving the Department of Commerce, the US Information Agency and the National Endowment for Democracy, etc.
- (e) The statement concludes by stating that the US "will continue to look for opportunities to support the efforts of the British and Irish Governments and of democratic leaders in Northern Ireland to build on and for peace. We encourage the millions of Americans who want to contribute to peace in Ireland to do the same."
- 3. We have also been told <u>privately</u> and <u>confidentially</u> that it is the intention of the White House to name a new US Economic Coordinator for Ireland in the near future. The intention is that this high profile personality will report directly to the President, and the Secretary of State, on continuing US economic efforts to underpin the peace process. This decision by the President is clearly of considerable significance and will ensure continuing substantive involvement and engagement by the United States at the highest level.

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TO DITAOiseach. FOR Mr 7. Murroy DATE 211. TOTAL NO. OF PAGES _____ (including this page) - CARR. FROM ____ Anglo-Trish Division; Dept. of Foreign Affairs Telephone No.: 4780822 (EXT) Fax No. 4754505 MESSAGE Ambassador fallerher rohad this be corred to 204.

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SUPPORTING PEACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The United States attaches great importance to the search for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ircland, both in the context of our world-wide commitment to end terrorism and our desire to promote democratic solutions to conflicts. Our close bonds of history, culture and tradition with Ireland and the United Kingdom provide us with a unique role in helping to achieve those goals.

We have encouraged and supported the courageous efforts of Trish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds and British Prime Minister John Major to establish a new framework for peace and justice in Northern Ireland. For the first time in a generation, both Republican and Loyalist paramilitaries have declared cease-fires. Each day that passes without terrorism strengthens the hope that the bomb and the bullet are gone for goed from the politics of Ireland.

The President has pledged to do all he can to support the building of peace in Northern Ireland. The United States wayts to do its part to ensure that peace brings to Ireland new opportunities for job growth and economic prosperity, which in turn will help ensure that this newfound peace is a stable and lasting one.

The promise of peace will allow Americans to build on the strong business, trade, political and cultural links we already enjoy with Ireland, north and south. The United States is the most impartant source of internationally mobile investment in Northern Ireland and in the Republic. Forty U.S. companies are already operating in Northern Ireland, providing some 9,000 jobs. In addition, the Administration strongly supports the International Fund for Ireland, which funds a broad range of economic and social development projects.

This present opportunity for lasting peace in Ireland is the chance of a generation; it must be selved and supported. The President therefore has directed his Administration to undertake the following initiatives in the coming months to increase our support for the political and economic revitalization of Northern Ireland and the border countries:

2-NOV-94 WED 1:18

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White House Conference for Trade and Investment

The President will host a White House Conference for Trade and Investment in Ireland. The Conference is planned for April 1995 in Philadelphia. He has instructed the Department of State to name a coordinator to work with Secretary Brown and his staff, the International Fund for Ireland, the Irish and British governments and private sector and political groups to organize and support the conference. The President looks forward to participating in this Conference, which will aim to show U.S. companies that sustained peace is dramatically improving business opportunities on the island of Ireland and, particularly, in Northern Ireland and the border counties. American businesses should be in on-the ground floor of these new opportunities; this will be good for us and good for Irish peace and reconciliation.

Commerce Secretary Brown to attend Belfast Investment Conference

Commerce Secretary Ron Brown will travel to Belfast in December 1994 to lead the U.S. delegation to Prime Minister Major's Investment Conference for Northern Ireland, where the President has instructed him to identify concrete new opportunities for increased business links between Northern Ireland and the U.S. Secretary Brown will also travel to Dublin for consultations. In both cities, he will prepare the groundwork for the White House Conference for Trade and Investment in Ireland. The President has also asked Secretary Brown to present the new initiatives he identifies at the White House Conference in April.

Increased funding for the IFI

The President is committed to continued strong U.S. support for the International Fund for Ireland. In addition to our planned obligation of almost \$20 million to the Fund in Fiscal Year 1995, we will seek Congressional concurrence to increase IFI funding by an additional \$10 million in Fiscal Year 1996 and in Fiscal Year 1997, for a total of \$30 million each year. This increase will bring the total commitment of this Administration to the Fund to \$100 million. The IFI has steadily strengthened and adjusted its programs and management over the years. We expect such progress to continue. This additional funding will support the IFI in undertaking the vital new initiatives that are needed to consolidate the gains of peace in Northern Ireland and the border counties and to build cross-community economic and political cooperation. We will work with it to strengthen its programs even further and particularly to address such entrenched problems as the high rates of long-term unemployment in Northern Ireland and the border counties.

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Department of Commerce programs

The President has directed the Department of Commerce to enhance our cooperation with Northern Ireland in science and technology, especially through strengthened collaboration with our Manufacturing Extension Partnerships and other programs to encourage technological innovation. The Commerce Department will also establish a Business Information Center for Trade and Investment and review other ways to promote business opportunities in Northern Ireland and the border countries.

The Department of Commerce will also initiate a business intern training program to bring managers and business technical experts to train with U.S. companies. This program will expedite the learning of advanced management and production skills and begin operating in Fiscal Year 1996 with approximately \$1 million in bilateral economic assistance funds. It will help improve the productive abilities of industry in Northern Ireland and the border counties and will also generate increased business between U.S. firms and companies in Northern Ireland -- creating more jobs both there and here.

USIA programs

The President has instructed the United States Information Agency to expand its programs in Northern Ireland in view of the changing political climate, increasing exchanges of persons as well as planning speakers and seminars on such topics as conflict resolution. In addition, USIA will open its grant competitions in such areas as conflict resolution to allow American non-profit organizations to submit proposals for projects in Northern Ireland to support the momentum for peace and reconciliation.

National Endowment for Democracy

The President will encourage the National Endowment for Democracy, which is presently funding a political party training program in Northern Ireland, to seek additional opportunities to strengthen and expand its programs there.

U.S. Agency for International Development

The President has asked USAID to explore ways to work with the IFI to increase the impact of its business enterprise program on small and micro-enterprises. Thomas A. Dine, USAID Assistant Administrator for Europe and the New Independent States, will travel through Northern Ireland and the border counties beginning November 19 to review existing IFI programs and determine whether

approaches used by USAID elsewhere may have application in Northern Ifeland.

Trade and Development Agency

The U.S. Trade and Development Agency will lead a technical delegation to Northern Ireland to identify infrastructure and industrial projects that represent mutually beneficial trade and investment opportunities. Depending upon the findings of the delegation, future activities might include the funding of feasibility studies and/or the sponsorship of reverse trade missions.

A Continuing Commitment

We will continue to look for opportunities to support the efforts of the British and Irish governments and of democratic leaders in Northern Ireland to build on and for peace. We encourage the millions of Americans who want to contribute to peace in Ireland to do the same.

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