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WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008

FAX NO: 135

22 FEBRUARY 1995

TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON
FOR G CORR FROM M COLLINS

RE: ADMINISTRATION/CONGRESSIONAL RESPONSE
TO FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT

Tanner
Tom M.
23/2
15th July
1755
Secretary of Justice
Mr Murray
Mr Teahan
Mr Nolan
Secretary at
Emb London
Connell

1. I attach herewith the following statements which have issued here in the course of today:

- **Statement by President Clinton:** The President welcomes the Joint Framework Document as a "courageous step towards lasting peace". He said that it "marks another significant step forward in the peace process". Referring to the proposed all-party talks which are "intended to be all inclusive, with all issues on the table" the President says that "the clear wish of the people of Northern Ireland is for lasting peace". He called upon all the parties "to examine the document carefully and move forward on the basis of it". He added "the benefits of peace are obvious to all and I urge the parties to seize this opportunity".
- **Statement by the Friends of Ireland:** The new Chairman of the Friends of Ireland, Congressman James Walsh, strongly welcomed the Framework Document describing it as "a fundamental and essential contribution to the search for a lasting and just peace between the nationalist and unionist traditions in Ireland". Looking forward to the debate which the Joint Document will help generate "about the underlying issues which need to be addressed by all sides", Congressman Walsh's statement welcomed "the recognition that this debate must include all the democratically mandated political parties in Northern Ireland in comprehensive political negotiations". The Friends statement said that they had been greatly encouraged by today's developments "which have brought closer the prospect of a lasting settlement in Ireland". It concludes, "we stand ready to be a friend to all those who seek to use the opportunities which have now been presented to lay to rest, finally, the causes of division and to build a new agreed Ireland shared by all who live there in peace and harmony".
- **Statement by Senator Kennedy:** Senator Kennedy commends the two Governments for the Framework Document which he says "is a welcome next step on the path to peace for Northern Ireland". Kennedy says that the Document "imposes nothing on anyone" and that its great virtue is that it "provides exactly what was promised - a thoughtful and comprehensive analysis of the fundamental

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issues. Above all, it offers a solid basis for moving to the next step - which is talks among all the parties, and which I hope will begin soon." It might be noted that Senator Kennedy has also included the Framework Document, together with the statements by the Taoiseach and the British Prime Minister, in the Congressional Record.

- **Statement by the Ad Hoc Committee:** The four Chairmen of the Ad Hoc Committee issued a very positive statement in which they said that the Joint Framework Document represents another promising step towards the goal of peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland. They said that the principles articulated in the document "offer renewed hope for all the people in Ireland, North and South that a peaceful and democratic end to the civil conflict can be achieved. The statement insists that "no one party should be allowed to prevent the peace process from moving forward." They strongly encourage all the parties in Northern Ireland "to embrace the spirit of the Framework Document and to take advantage of this unique opportunity to move the peace process forward". In urging immediate and comprehensive dialogue, the Ad Hoc Committee say that with the introduction of the Framework Document "the debate regarding the future of Ireland has reached one of its most critical stages in the last 75 years".
- **Statement by Senator Leahy:** Senator Leahy made quite a comprehensive statement on the floor of the Senate this morning in which he spoke about today's developments and about his recent visit to Ireland. This is, by far, the most comprehensive statement made by Leahy on Ireland in the Senate and is indicative of a growing and extremely valuable interest on his part. He describes the Framework Document as "a tremendous step forward". He urges the Unionists to recognise it for what it is - "a basis for discussion, not a final blueprint. I urge them to come to the negotiating table with their own ideas, not condemn the process before even giving it a chance". He says that "change in Northern Ireland is inevitable, but the Framework Document should threaten nobody". Importantly, Senator Leahy attests to the work of the IFI noting that the Fund's efforts have "brought together Catholics and Protestants in common endeavours where in the past there was virtually no contact between them". Leahy also pays warm tribute throughout to President Clinton.
- **State Department Press Guidance:** This Press Guidance was prepared by the State Department spokesman. Effectively, it has been superseded by the White House statement which has since been issued.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 22, 1995

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I welcome today's announcement by Irish Prime Minister Bruton and British Prime Minister Major of the launching of a Joint Framework Document outlining their shared proposals for inclusive talks on the future of Northern Ireland. The publication of this document marks another significant step forward in the peace process. I congratulate both Prime Ministers, former Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds, Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring, and British Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Sir Patrick Mayhew, all of whom have worked hard and risked much in the search for a new path forward to reconciliation and lasting peace.

The Framework Document lays the foundation for all-party talks among the British and Irish governments and the political parties in Northern Ireland. The talks are intended to be all-inclusive, with all issues on the table. As the Irish and British governments have emphasized, the document is designed to assist discussion and negotiation on Northern Ireland and will not be imposed on any party. The clear wish of the people of Northern Ireland is for a lasting peace. We call upon all the parties to examine the document carefully and move forward on the basis of it.

The guns and bombs have been silent in Northern Ireland for almost six months. The benefits of peace are obvious to all and I urge the parties to seize this opportunity. I will continue to strongly support the peace process in Northern Ireland and to work with the governments of Ireland and the United Kingdom to build on today's courageous step forward toward lasting peace. In addition, I look forward to our Trade and Investment Conference to be held this May as a way to underscore the tangible benefits to peace.

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News Release

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**Congressman
Jim Walsh**



25th District, New York

February 22, 1995

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

BY: Rep. James T. Walsh, New York 25th District
Chairman, Friends of Ireland

The Friends of Ireland strongly welcomes the Joint Framework Document published today by the Irish and British governments. As the considered views of both governments, this Document, with its new approach, is a fundamental and essential contribution to the search for a lasting and just peace between the nationalist and unionist traditions in Ireland.

We look forward to the debate which the Joint Framework Document will help generate about the underlying issues which need to be addressed by all sides. We particularly welcome the recognition that this debate must include all the democratically mandated political parties in Northern Ireland in comprehensive political negotiations.

The hopes of the Friends of Ireland, and of the wider Irish-American community, have been greatly encouraged by today's developments which have brought closer the prospect of a lasting settlement in Ireland. We stand ready to be a friend to all those who seek to use the opportunities which have now been presented to lay to rest, finally, the causes of division and to build a new agreed Ireland shared by all who live there in peace and harmony.

END

from the office of

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*Senator Edward M. Kennedy
of Massachusetts*

STATEMENT OF SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY
ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT ON NORTHERN IRELAND

For Immediate Release
February 22, 1995

Contact: Pamela Hughes
Jim Manley
202/224-2633

I commend the Irish and British Governments on the constructive framework document they have produced. This document is a welcome next step on the path to peace for Northern Ireland, and it offers a fair and balanced way to move the peace process forward.

The document imposes nothing on anyone, and it reaffirms the solemn guarantee that the consent of the people of Northern Ireland is the indispensable condition for any future settlement.

The great virtue of the document is that it provides exactly what was promised -- a thoughtful and comprehensive analysis of the fundamental issues. Above all, it offers a solid basis for moving to the next step -- which is talks among all the parties, and which I hope will begin soon.

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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 22, 1995

**STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRMEN OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE
ON IRISH AFFAIRS ON THE JOINT FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT**

(WASHINGTON) The Joint Framework Document released by the Irish and British Governments today represents another promising step towards the goal of peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland. As members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs, we believe that the principles articulated in the Document offer renewed hope for all of the people of Ireland, north and south, that a peaceful and democratic end to the civil conflict can be achieved. We now look forward with great interest to the commencement of talks involving the two Governments and all-parties in Northern Ireland.

There is no doubt that in order to achieve a just and lasting peace for all the people of Ireland the aspirations and identities of all individuals have to be recognized. By that standard, no one party should be allowed to prevent the peace process from moving forward. The broad principles contained in the Framework Document offer guidance and direction towards the realization of these goals. We strongly encourage all parties in Northern Ireland to embrace the spirit of the Framework Document and take advantage of this unique opportunity to move the peace process forward.

With the introduction of the Framework Document, the debate regarding the future of Ireland has reached one of its most critical stages in the last seventy-five years. In order to sustain the momentum created by the historic September ceasefire, and move closer towards peace and reconciliation, the Ad Hoc Committee urges all political leaders involved in the peace process to enter into immediate and comprehensive dialogue on the initiatives content.

BENJAMIN A. GILMAN, M.C. THOMAS J. MANTON, M.C.

RICHARD E. NEAL, M.C. PETER T. KING, M.C.

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U.S. SENATOR PATRICK LEAHY

VERMONT

STATEMENT OF SENATOR PATRICK LEAHY

"A CHANCE FOR PEACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND"

FEBRUARY 22, 1995

Mr. President, this is an historic day for Ireland and Northern Ireland. I hope all senators, and all the American people, are aware of the significance of what the people of that island have done today.

For the past quarter of a century, Unionists, who favor continued British control over Northern Ireland, and Catholics who favor unification of Northern Ireland with the Irish Republic, have been locked in a cruel war over the status of the North. Over 3200 people have died, many of them innocent civilians caught in the cross-fire between the IRA and Protestant paramilitary groups.

Mr. President, as an American of Irish descent, the violence in Northern Ireland has had a profound affect on me. I have always, unequivocally, opposed the use of violence, by both sides, in Northern Ireland. Irish Americans who care about the land of our ancestors condemn violence without reservation, and support a peaceful settlement.

In December 1993, our hopes were raised for an end to the bloodshed, when former Irish Prime Minister Reynolds, and British Prime Minister Major, declared, for the first time, that the future status of Northern Ireland should be decided by agreement of the people there. That declaration began a peace process that led to the IRA cease-fire last August. Two months later Protestant paramilitary groups stopped shooting, and the cease-fire has held.

Since then, the British government has taken several steps to reduce tensions in the North, including ending daytime military patrols in Belfast. In the Irish Republic, a Peace and Reconciliation Forum has brought Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA, into informal talks with representatives of the government and other parties.

Today in Belfast, in what I believe offers the best hope for peace in the 25-year history of the conflict, Irish Prime Minister Bruton and Prime Minister Major announced the publication of a long-awaited Framework Document which provides a basis for future negotiations on a peace settlement.

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Mr. President, yesterday afternoon I returned from Dublin, Belfast and London, where I met with leaders and individuals representing all points of view on the future of Northern Ireland. I went because I knew the peace process was at a decisive point.

I wanted to give encouragement. I also wanted to pay tribute to the people of both Northern Ireland and the Republic, Catholic and Protestant, who are courageously trying to find a way to a better future.

The Framework Document, which sets out a joint vision for the future of both Irish and British Governments, is a tremendous step forward. It reaffirms the principles of self-determination, of the consent of the governed, of democratic and peaceful means, and of full respect and protection for the rights and identities of both traditions.

Since the Framework's aim is to encourage all parties to come to the negotiating table, no one will be content with all of it. The Unionists who I met with condemned the Framework Document long before its release. I suggested that they recognize it for what it is—a basis for discussion, not a final blueprint. I urged them to come to the negotiating table with their own ideas, not condemn the process before even giving it a chance.

Mr. President, in Belfast I got a sense of the fear Unionists feel. For centuries they have thought of themselves as British, and today they fear that the British Government is abandoning them. Some longed for a past that never was; dreamed of a future that never would be; and they fear a present they do not understand.

Change in Northern Ireland is inevitable, but the Framework Document should threaten no one. It would give a majority of the people of Northern Ireland the right to decide their future. It is equally important to recognize that any lasting peace, any healthy society, must be rooted in equal justice. The fundamental civil rights of both Catholics and Protestants must be protected.

Everywhere I went, I heard praise for the role President Clinton has played in supporting the peace process in Northern Ireland. It is clear that without his personal involvement, we would not have seen this day.

I also want to praise our Ambassador, Jean Kennedy Smith, who has taken up the cause for peace and encouraged the parties to move forward.

In Dublin and Belfast I told Unionists and Nationalists the same thing, that the United States Government will support this effort fully, and with even-handedness.

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But the real work of peace will be done by them. Both have legitimate aspirations, and both traditions must find a way to accommodate one another.

Mr. President, I am under no illusion that a peaceful future in Northern Ireland is assured. Immense difficulties lie ahead. To put the past behind, to build peace out of bloodshed, to find common ground where there has been so much hatred and distrust. But from all that I heard during my visit there, there is a new spirit emerging; a wide recognition that violence has failed; a new determination to find another way.

Building a lasting peace also means urgently dealing with the terrible problem of unemployment in the North. People need to have confidence in their government, but they also need jobs; they need economic security as well as physical security.

In Belfast, I saw some of the accomplishments of the International Fund for Ireland which the United States and European countries have supported since 1983. I can attest to the important work the Fund is doing to provide jobs in areas where unemployment among Catholics runs as high as 60 percent. The Fund's efforts have also brought together Catholics and Protestants in common endeavors where in the past there was virtually no contact between them.

President Clinton, in recognition of the Fund's accomplishments and the critical stage the peace process has reached, has proposed increases in our contributions in 1996 and 1997.

The Fund is a transitional program until real investment can take root in the North. A Trade and Investment Conference is planned for May in Washington, and it is eagerly awaited by people in both Northern Ireland and the Republic. President Clinton's selection of Senator George Mitchell as his Special Advisor on Economic Initiatives in Ireland is not only indicative of the President's commitment to support peace there, it also ensures the success of the conference.

Mr. President, the island of my ancestors is at an historic turning point. Today's publication of the Framework Document offers a real chance for an end to a conflict that has horrified so many of us for decades. I want to commend the Irish and British Governments, and all the parties who are seeking a better future for the people of Northern Ireland.

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**EUR PRESS GUIDANCE
FEBRUARY 22, 1995**

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NORTHERN IRELAND: RELEASE OF JOINT FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT

Q: Any reaction to the signing and release of the Joint Framework Document by Irish PM Bruton and United Kingdom PM Major in Belfast this morning?

A: -- THE USG WELCOMES THE JOINT FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT AND APPLAUDS THE JOINT EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF IRELAND AND THE UNITED KINGDOM TO ESTABLISH A NEW FOUNDATION ON WHICH ALL PARTIES CAN BUILD PEACE AND RECONCILIATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

-- BOTH GOVERNMENTS HAVE MADE IMPRESSIVE EFFORTS TO OVERCOME A HERITAGE OF ANIMOSITY AND FORGE A PATH FORWARD TO LASTING PEACE.

-- WE FULLY SUPPORT THE JOINT FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT AS THE BASIS FOR AN ONGOING PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION AND DIALOGUE.

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-- WE CALL UPON ALL PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT TO EXAMINE THE JOINT FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT CAREFULLY AND CONSIDER THEIR PUBLIC RESPONSES TO AND JUDGMENTS OF THE TEXT IN THE LIGHT OF THE CLEAR WISH OF THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND FOR AN END TO THIS TRAGIC CONFLICT.

-- AS PM BRUTON AND PM MAJOR HAVE SAID, THE JOINT FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT IS NOT A BLUEPRINT TO BE IMPOSED, BUT A DOCUMENT TO SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR "ALL-PARTY" TALKS.

-- BOTH GOVERNMENTS AND THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND HAVE TAKEN COURAGEOUS STEPS TOWARD A LASTING PEACE. WE WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE THE PEACE PROCESS OUR FULL SUPPORT AS BOTH GOVERNMENTS MOVE AHEAD TOGETHER.

NOTE: THE WHITE HOUSE IS EXPECTED TO RELEASE A STATEMENT TODAY.

DRAFT