

An Chartlann Náisiúnta
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Not received DFA until 16.4.98

FAX

D.O. Niamh Ryan : not received

D.O. John Mattimoe Carlow. not received.

TO: DUTY OFFICER
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
IVEAGH HOUSE

FROM: PIERRE DIETRICHSEN
SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR, DUBLIN
RESIDENCE TEL/FAX NO. 269.1089

DATE: 10 APRIL 1998

Mr Gerson To see & PA SAffs DS 21/4

MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS FROM SOUTH AFRICA

1. I send herewith the statement by President Nelson Mandela this afternoon in reaction to the historic agreement on Northern Ireland.

2. I have had a telephone call from our Deputy President, Mr Thabo Mbeki who is in Beijing at present with the request that the contents of the statement be brought to the attention of the Taoiseach with the specific message of congratulations from Deputy President Mbeki as well. Deputy President Mbeki also sends his condolences with the sad passing away of the Taoiseach's mother and given the difficult circumstances, wishes to commend the Taoiseach especially for his key role in Belfast this week.

3. I would be grateful if you could assist to have the message conveyed to an appropriate member of Mr Ahern's staff to ensure the transmission of the sentiments. Please kindly also bring the contents of the message to the attention/information of Minister Andrews. I appreciate your assistance.

4. Please do not hesitate to contact me if necessary or to confirm transmission.

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cc psm, psms, Sec Gallagher, Clles A-1
DI Taoiseach (Ula Kiernan)

Note already recd by Pol Div.

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MEDIA STATEMENT ON THE AGREEMENT REACHED REGARDING THE NORTHERN IRELAND PEACE PROCESS ON 10 APRIL 1998

On behalf of the Government and the people of South Africa, I would like to express our congratulations on the agreement reached to all the negotiators and leaders involved in the Northern Ireland Peace Process. I am delighted that this agreement will bring the opportunity for peace and prosperity to the people of Northern Ireland.

I would also like to encourage all parties to work towards the successful implementation of the details of the agreement. This is one of the most significant milestones in the history of Northern Ireland. I commend the leadership of the people of Northern Ireland as well as the Prime Ministers of Ireland and the United Kingdom for their bold and unstinting efforts to bring peace and stability to the area. Their leadership will continue to be of crucial importance in the weeks and months ahead. This historic breakthrough has once again demonstrated the value of negotiation and consultation rather than confrontation and upheaval. Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Northern Ireland.

N R MANDELA
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Issued on behalf of the Office of the President by the Department of Foreign Affairs
Pretoria
10 April 1998

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Copy / Sent to DFA in Error.
Ry
16/4/98

FAX

TO: MR GERRY ADAMS
PRESIDENT, SINN FEIN
(Please forward)

FROM: PIERRE DIETRICHSEN
SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR, DUBLIN

DATE: 10 APRIL 1998

MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS

1. Deputy President Thabo Mbeki who is in Beijing at present has asked me to convey to you personally his and South African government congratulations on the agreement reached in Belfast and on your role in the process.

2. I also attach a copy of the statement issued by President Mandela.

With best wishes, also for Easter and my personal congratulations.

Yours sincerely

Pierre Dietrichsen

01-269-1089

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