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Washington

BY FAX

28 October 1994

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*Dear Jonathan,*

**NORTHERN IRELAND: U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE**

1. The NSC have just telephoned to say that the President intends to announce a package of economic assistance for Northern Ireland in a campaign appearance in Philadelphia on Monday 31 October. The President will be campaigning for Senator Harris Wofford, who is in a very tight re-election race. They hope this announcement will sway Irish-American voters in the state.
2. I attach the draft statement the White House intends to issue simultaneously with the President's speech. Kathy Stephens has only just faxed it to Nancy Soderberg in the Middle East. She and the White House political operatives may well change it. The Americans have also shown the text to the Irish. There is some question about whether the IFI will make a simultaneous announcement of their projects.
3. The text as it stands at the moment looks satisfactory to us. It envisages increasing the American contribution to the IFI by 50% in fiscal years 1996 and 1997. It has Secretary Brown coming to Northern Ireland to attend the Prime Minister's investment conference. It would be helpful if you could confirm that the dates for this are 11-12 December. If you have any comments on the text you should let us know straight away. The Americans would of course be grateful if we could react positively to the announcement.

*Yours sincerely  
Jon - Powell*

J N Powell

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

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For Immediate Release

SUPPORTING PEACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The United States attaches great importance to the search for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland, both in the context of our world-wide commitment to end terrorism and to promote democratic solutions to conflicts, and because of the close bonds of history, culture and tradition our nation shares with the United Kingdom and Ireland.

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

I have pledged to do all I can to support the building of a new, peaceful Northern Ireland. The United States wants 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, permanent 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 at present the most important source of internationally mobile investment for Northern Ireland, with about forty U.S. companies operating there. The Administration works closely with Congress to fund the International Fund for Ireland, which supports a broad range of economic and social development projects. But we want to do more. This opportunity for lasting peace in Ireland is the chance of a generation; it must be seized. I am therefore directing my Administration to undertake the following initiatives in the coming months to increase our support for the political and economic revitalization of Northern Ireland:

- 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. I have instructed Secretary Brown to identify concrete new

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opportunities for increased business links between Northern Ireland and the U.S.

- We will hold a White House Conference for Trade and Investment in Ireland. The Conference is planned for spring 1995 in Philadelphia. I have instructed the Department of State to name a Coordinator to work with Secretary Brown and his staff, the International Fund for Ireland and other involved U.S., British and Irish governmental and private sector groups to organize and support the conference. I look forward to participating in this Conference, which will aim to show U.S. companies that sustained peace is dramatically improving the business opportunities in Northern Ireland and the border counties. I want American businesses to get in on the ground floor of these new opportunities; this will be good for us and good for Irish peace and reconciliation.
- I am committed to continued strong U.S. support for the International Fund for Ireland. In addition to our planned obligation of almost \$40 million to the Fund through Fiscal Year 1995, I will seek Congressional concurrence to increase U.S. funding to a total of \$60 million over the following two years, FY96 and FY97, assuring that IFI has the funds it needs for the vital new initiatives it is taking to solidify the cease-fire and build cross-community economic and political cooperation. In particular, I hope the IFI will strengthen its programs to address the entrenched problem of high rates of long-term unemployment in Northern Ireland and the border counties.
- The Administration will work with Congress to establish an OPIC equity fund not to exceed \$60 million for both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The aim of this fund would be to further mobilize U.S. private capital for investment in Ireland.
- I have directed the Department of Commerce to enhance our cooperation with Northern Ireland in the science and technology area, especially through strengthened collaboration of our Technology Innovation Centers.
- I have 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, I will ask USIA to open its grant competitions to allow American non-profit organizations to submit proposals for projects in Northern

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Ireland to support the momentum for peace and reconciliation.

- I 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.
- I have instructed U.S. government agencies with relevant expertise and experience in such areas as community banking and urban redevelopment to develop active partnerships with their counterparts in Northern Ireland.
- 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. I encourage the millions of Americans who want to contribute to peace in Ireland to do the same. I have asked Ambassador Crowe in London to place a high priority on monitoring the progress of our initiatives and, in consultation with Ambassador Smith in Dublin, to report back to Secretary Christopher and me.

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*Lawrence*

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OCTOBER 1994

*cc - Mr. Baker*  
*cc - Mr. ...*  
*cc - ...*