

# Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Library Collections

---

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

---

**Collection:** Green, Max: Files, 1985-1988  
**Series:** I: KOJELIS-GREEN SUBJECT FILE  
**Folder Title:** Irish Issues  
(1 of 4)  
**Box:** 2

---

To see more digitized collections visit:  
<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digitized-textual-material>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Inventories, visit:  
<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/white-house-inventories>

Contact a reference archivist at: **reagan.library@nara.gov**

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/research-support/citation-guide>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Date: 3/12

TO: Max

FROM: BRENDA WONG  
Office of Public Liaison

Comments by  
Cob today

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM *OK mcs*

DATE: 3/12/87 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 9:00 a.m. 3/13/87

SUBJECT: REMARKS: ST. PATRICK'S DAY RECEPTION AT THE  
IRISH AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE  
(3/12/87 12:30 p.m. draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	KING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAKER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RISQUE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MILLER - OMB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MASENG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BALL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MILLER - ADMIN.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAUER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RYAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
KOEHLER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPRINKEL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARLUCCI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	THOMAS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CHEW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TUTTLE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DANIELS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WALLISON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CANNON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HENKEL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	GRISCOM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOBBS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CULVAHOUSE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			DOLAN		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: Please give your comments directly to Tony Dolan with an info copy to my office by 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

07 MAR 12 P 11

RECEIVED OPL-WW

David L. Chew  
Staff Secretary  
Ext 2702

(Rohrabacher/ARD)

March 12, 1987

12:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ST. PATRICK'S DAY RECEPTION AT THE  
IRISH AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE  
TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 1987

Thank you. Ambassador MacKernan, distinguished guests,  
a chairde gaeil [ah car-jah gale]. A special thanks to Deputy  
Prime Minister Lenehan for doing the honors with the shamrocks.

It is an honor and a pleasure for me to be here with you,  
sharing the spirit and festivities of St. Patrick's Day. The  
blessed St. Patrick, we are told, died on this day in the year of  
our Lord 461. And leave it to the Irish to be carrying on a wake  
for over 1500 years.

St. Patrick, as we know, was the historic man of God who,  
with passion and strength of conviction, converted the people of  
Ireland to Christianity.

I have a deep and abiding respect for the accomplishments of  
St. Patrick, an individual who was able to turn the head of the  
entire Irish race. Having done my best these last 6 years, even  
on the minor issues, to convert the likes of Kennedy and O'Neill,  
I can only stand in awe of such a man.

St. Patrick's imprint can be found, even today, on the  
character of the Irish people and on all of us who trace our  
roots to Ireland. One of the most moving moments in my  
Presidency was my return to Ballyporeen about 3 years ago. I'd  
like to take this opportunity to thank again the Irish people for  
giving me such a warm homecoming.

I'd also like to take this moment to make two serious  
points. It was another such visit<sup>a</sup> paid by an American President

of Irish descent, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, that resulted in the formation of the American Irish Foundation.

For over two decades, the American Irish Foundation has been doing exemplary work on both sides of the Atlantic, underscoring the bonds of affection and blood between our countries. Since 1976, its efforts have been complemented by those of The Ireland Fund, which is a non-political, non-sectarian organization that raises funds to promote peace, culture, and charity in Ireland.

George Bernard Shaw once wrote, "The worst sin toward our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them; that's the essence of inhumanity." Well, no one involved in either of these two fine organizations could ever be labeled indifferent. Today, it is an honor for me to recognize that the American Irish Foundation and the Ireland Fund are now officially merged into one operation. This is its first day, and it is called The American Ireland Fund. I know we have several representatives from that organization with us today. \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ . Good luck to you, and God bless the fine work you are doing.

This type of commitment, this individual responsibility, is a part of the American way of life, perhaps a part that can be traced back to Ireland. I know in my own family, we were far from affluent, yet we were taught to help others.

On this special day, one can't help but think of the suffering that still plagues St. Patrick's Island. For nearly two decades, the north has been torn by sectarian violence that has taken the lives of more than 1,400 men, women, and children.

This brutal and senseless violence against people and destruction of property is a poison of no possible benefit, an elixir of death and heartbreak that -- for humanity's sake and for all of Ireland's sake -- must be set aside.

Out of this tragic situation, the governments of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland took a courageous and far-sighted step in November of 1985 when they signed the Anglo-Irish Agreement. The United States supports this accord as a realistic framework within which the problems of Northern Ireland can be addressed, an avenue which holds for the best hope of political stability and economic regeneration.

This agreement was warmly welcomed here, yet we cannot ignore that, since its signing, violent deaths have increased in the north. I think the time has long since come when people of good will -- north and south and on both sides of the Atlantic -- should draw the line and let the perpetrators and supporters of this violence and mayhem know that they will no longer be tolerated.

For our part, the United States continues to stand ready to help. Last year, Congress authorized and I signed into law a contribution of \$120 million to the International Fund for Ireland. This effort, and those of the two foundations which today are merged into the American Ireland Fund, has accomplished much, but there is a long way to go. Now is the time for people in and out of government to move forward aggressively. Social harmony and economic progress in Ireland will not come easy, but

better, more peaceful times will come. Together, the people of Ireland and the United States can make that happen.

It was 900 years ago when legend tells us that St. Brendan set forth in his leather boat and headed West. He came back speaking and writing of a new world. Today, our task is not so easy. If we are to have a new world, we must build it, and we must do it together.

So on this St. Patrick's Day, I express the best wishes of the people of the United States to our cousins and friends, the people of Ireland. Om croidhe amach [oh-mmm cree ah-mok]. Thank you and God bless you.

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 3/12/87 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 9:00 a.m. 3/13/87

SUBJECT: REMARKS: ST. PATRICK'S DAY RECEPTION AT THE  
IRISH AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE  
(3/12/87 12:30 p.m. draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	KING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAKER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RISQUE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MILLER - OMB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MASENG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BALL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MILLER - ADMIN.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAUER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RYAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
KOEHLER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPRINKEL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARLUCCI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	THOMAS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CHEW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TUTTLE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DANIELS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WALLISON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CANNON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HENKEL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	GRISCOM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOBBS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CULVAHOUSE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			DOLAN		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: Please give your comments directly to Tony Dolan with an info copy to my office by 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

87 MAR 12 P 1:11

RECEIVED OPL-WW

David L. Chew  
Staff Secretary  
Ext 2102



(Rohrabacher/ARD)  
March 12, 1987  
12:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ST. PATRICK'S DAY RECEPTION AT THE  
IRISH AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE  
TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 1987

Thank you. Ambassador MacKernan, distinguished guests,  
a chairde gaeil [ah car-jah gale]. A special thanks to Deputy  
Prime Minister Lenehan for doing the honors with the shamrocks.

It is an honor and a pleasure for me to be here with you,  
sharing the spirit and festivities of St. Patrick's Day. The  
blessed St. Patrick, we are told, died on this day in the year of  
our Lord 461. And leave it to the Irish to be carrying on a wake  
for over 1500 years.

St. Patrick, as we know, was the historic man of God who,  
with passion and strength of conviction, converted the people of  
Ireland to Christianity.

I have a deep and abiding respect for the accomplishments of  
St. Patrick, an individual who was able to turn the head of the  
entire Irish race. Having done my best these last 6 years, even  
on the minor issues, to convert the likes of Kennedy and O'Neill,  
I can only stand in awe of such a man.

St. Patrick's imprint can be found, even today, on the  
character of the Irish people and on all of us who trace our  
roots to Ireland. One of the most moving moments in my  
Presidency was my return to Ballyporeen about 3 years ago. I'd  
like to take this opportunity to thank again the Irish people for  
giving me such a warm homecoming.

I'd also like to take this moment to make two serious  
points. It was another such visit paid by an American President

of Irish descent, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, that resulted in the formation of the American Irish Foundation.

For over two decades, the American Irish Foundation has been doing exemplary work on both sides of the Atlantic, underscoring the bonds of affection and blood between our countries. Since 1976, its efforts have been complemented by those of The Ireland Fund, which is a non-political, non-sectarian organization that raises funds to promote peace, culture, and charity in Ireland.

George Bernard Shaw once wrote, "The worst sin toward our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them; that's the essence of inhumanity." Well, no one involved in either of these two fine organizations could ever be labeled indifferent. Today, it is an honor for me to recognize that the American Irish Foundation and the Ireland Fund are now officially merged into one operation. This is its first day, and it is called The American Ireland Fund. I know we have several representatives from that organization with us today. \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ . Good luck to you, and God bless the fine work you are doing.

This type of commitment, this individual responsibility, is a part of the American way of life, perhaps a part that can be traced back to Ireland. I know in my own family, we were far from affluent, yet we were taught to help others.

On this special day, one can't help but think of the suffering that still plagues St. Patrick's Island. For nearly two decades, the north has been torn by sectarian violence that has taken the lives of more than 1,400 men, women, and children.

This brutal and senseless violence against people and destruction of property is a poison of no possible benefit, an elixir of death and heartbreak that -- for humanity's sake and for all of Ireland's sake -- must be set aside.

Out of this tragic situation, the governments of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland took a courageous and far-sighted step in November of 1985 when they signed the Anglo-Irish Agreement. The United States supports this accord as a realistic framework within which the problems of Northern Ireland can be addressed, an avenue which holds for the best hope of political stability and economic regeneration.

This agreement was warmly welcomed here, yet we cannot ignore that, since its signing, violent deaths have increased in the north. I think the time has long since come when people of good will -- north and south and on both sides of the Atlantic -- should draw the line and let the perpetrators and supporters of this violence and mayhem know that they will no longer be tolerated.

For our part, the United States continues to stand ready to help. Last year, Congress authorized and I signed into law a contribution of \$120 million to the International Fund for Ireland. This effort, and those of the two foundations which today are merged into the American Ireland Fund, has accomplished much, but there is a long way to go. Now is the time for people in and out of government to move forward aggressively. Social harmony and economic progress in Ireland will not come easy, but

better, more peaceful times will come. Together, the people of Ireland and the United States can make that happen.

It was 900 years ago when legend tells us that St. Brendan set forth in his leather boat and headed West. He came back speaking and writing of a new world. Today, our task is not so easy. If we are to have a new world, we must build it, and we must do it together.

So on this St. Patrick's Day, I express the best wishes of the people of the United States to our cousins and friends, the people of Ireland. Om croidhe amach [oh-mmm cree ah-mok]. Thank you and God bless you.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary

---

For Immediate Release

March 15, 1985

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

St. Patrick's Day

This year I will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day with Irishmen from North of our border - in a city more generally thought of for its French, not Irish, customs. Brian Mulroney, a great Irishman and Canadian, has invited me to participate in St. Patrick's Day festivities in Quebec City, and I look forward to sharing our Canadian friends' celebration of this very special day.

As you may know, our planned meeting in Quebec has been dubbed the "Shamrock Summit." I think this is only fitting - yet another indication of the far-reaching influence of the Emerald Isle. As we, all Irishmen, pay tribute to, and revel in, our shared heritage today, let us remember our kinsmen in the poetic "land across the Irish Sea" and reflect on how we can ensure that they too share fully in the blessings this great heritage has helped bring to us.

Is there a lovelier place on earth? As a recent visitor, I must answer, no. The whole island, from the glens of Antrim to the rugged coast of Cork, has a lyrical welcoming beauty, the memory of which a visitor will retain in his heart forever. Millions of Americans like me already know this. I hope that millions more will discover it.

Yet the tranquil beauty of the land itself is not sufficient to drown out the discord. We in America must make every effort to ensure that, whether knowingly or unknowingly, no material, financial or psychological help originates from this side of the Atlantic for those who advocate and practice violence. As I have said on many occasions, such persons will find no welcome here. On the contrary, we have intensified our efforts to ensure that the United States is not the source of guns and money for such activities.

We encourage those who strive to peacefully resolve problems underlying the conflict. I also encourage Americans to let their foreign investment and vacation dollars find a profitable haven in the island, an approach that would benefit all. Indeed, we firmly believe that foreign investments, and the employment opportunities that would accompany such investments, can play an increasingly significant role in promoting peaceful change. In this regard, I urge that serious consideration be given to all economic as well as political proposals evolving from a spirit of consensus and reconciliation. We in the United States can be counted on to do our part to ensure that proposals which can be of assistance in promoting this process receive due consideration.

We applaud the increased political interchange in the last year regarding the Irish situation and hope that it leads to forward movement so that soon all Irishmen, whether on the green island or abroad, can share equally in the joy brought by a day like today in the United States, where it is marked by peace, friendship and harmony.

I wish you all a very happy St. Patrick's Day.

# # #

John Wa.

March 19, 84.

→ Bob Tattle r/v - when i-v?

Hibernians

March 22, 1984

- Mr. Roche, Mr. Herlihy, Mr. O'Connor
- Mr. Cady.
- AOH.

N. Ireland - Very concerned over violence, H.R. violations  
Not just Cath/Prot. Forfront in displeasure in lack of enthusiasm.

→ Would like more <sup>U.S.</sup> activism. Wants U.S. to be greater involved. More U.S. pressure of U.K.

- Against presence of U.K. army.
- Plastic bullets use in N. Ireland.

→ AOH thinks violence would end if U.K. agreed to withdraw.

→ ~~1972~~ 72 - Appointment of special envoy to N. Ireland. →

Kennedy, Moyrhan,  
Would be very helpful - want RP support.



- N. Ireland → breeding ground for violence.
  - World Court 72-74 →
  - strong ties w/ Catholic U →
  - President Reagan can do the most. Margaret Thatcher is close friend of the Presidents, but harshest on Irish in N. Ireland.
  - Short Ques, contract. AF contract.
- 

### Bob Reilly

- AOH - As Catholics - support the bishops.
- AOH → Hope for united Ireland.
- AOH founded in 1836, AOH called over to protect church from Know-Notings.
- Feel first
- TTC, Abortion. Somewhat less on school prayer.
- Prosecution of Church in Nicaragua.

Shen Kraemer →

→ Pres. Reagan fully supports AOH goals  
re: use of Nuclear arms.

→ ~~He~~ share views of bishops.

→ R.R. - supports reductions, unlike  
SALT I & II.

→ President agrees w/ equal no's. &  
capabilities.

→ Pres. believes in verifiability.

Forward comments of Irish Am's. to  
appropriate levels.

---

Report on Pres: position on nuclear arms.

→ Position



# Reagan praises efforts of the New Ireland Forum

LOS ANGELES—Speaking last week at the annual dinner of the American Irish Foundation, Secretary of the Interior William P. Clark read a message from President Reagan which praised the efforts of the New Ireland Forum. He called those efforts, "courageous and forthright."

The full text of Clark's brief remarks were as follows: "President Reagan conveys his best wishes to the American foundation. We have always possessed here in America a unique and compelling interest in the political, economic, cultural and social well being of all the people of Ireland north and south.

"We therefore take this opportunity to commend the Irish statesmen for their courageous and forthright efforts recently embodied in the report of the New Ireland Forum.


"President Reagan continues in his his message in encouraging the people of Ireland, north and south, and the governments of Ireland and Great Britain to pursue a constitutional and peaceful solution to the terrible problems that have so long plagued the Emerald Isle."

Asked by reporters later, if the statement should be considered an attack on British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for her hardline stance, Clark said: "The statement speaks for itself."

Many leading American businessmen were present at the dinner. The guests include Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister Dick Spring; the American Ambassador to Ireland Robert F. Kane; the Irish Ambassador to the U.S., Tadhg O'Sullivan; the American Ambassador to Mexico, John Gavin; and the former U.S. Ambassador to Dublin, Peter Dailey.

After the dinner, Spring told reporters: "The President is obviously expressing the American understanding of the Northern Irish political process and an awareness of the difficulties of the situation."

Irish Government officials, although cautious in their public remarks, were clearly pleased at the tenor of the President's message so soon after the failure in the Anglo-Irish summit meeting.



# Irish American Fenian Society Inc.



## Censorship / Visa Denial Campaign

***We the undersigned, recognizing that the policy of censorship by visa denial against elected members of Sinn Fein entering the United States, is discriminating, prejudicial, and responsible for the following:***

- **Creates an imbalance of opinion in the US. which fosters the** continuation of British terror in Ireland, as evidenced by the brutal and unprovoked attack by pro-British forces on peaceful demonstrators, including 130 Americans in Belfast on August 12, 1984, resulting in the murder of Sean Downes by a lethal plastic bullet.
- **Silences vocal opposition in the US to British terror in Ireland, while** promoting a biased British viewpoint.
- **Violates the rights of Americans who invite elected members of** Sinn Fein to America in accordance with the First Amendment Right of free speech.
- **Do hereby petition members of Congress to undertake the following:**
  1. Support the issuance of visas to elected members of Sinn Fein to enter the U.S.
  2. Support full Congressional Hearings on Ireland.
  3. Support Congressman Mario Biaggi's Resolution 21 to ban the use of plastic bullets by the British.
  4. Protest Britain's exclusion order against Martin Galvin and the failure of the US State Department to file a formal protest against the attack on 130 Americans on August 12, 1984.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

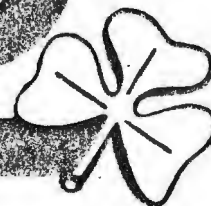
Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Copies to: **The Irish-American Fenian Society, Inc.,**  
**10 Sloan Street, South Orange, New Jersey 07079**

# IRISH ECHO

THE LARGEST IRISH-AMERICAN NEWSPAPER



VOL LVI, NO. 38

Saturday, SEPTEMBER 22, 1984

## Irish Solidarity Day to be held on Sept. 23

Sunday, Sept. 23 has been designated as Irish Solidarity Day in New York City. A major rally, supported by most of the major Irish American organizations in the metropolitan area will be held on that day at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, 47th St. between First and Second Aves. in Manhattan.

at noon with a demonstration outside the British consulate, 53rd St. and Third Ave. At 1:30 p.m. members of that demonstration will march to Dag Hammarskjold Plaza where they will join other Irish groups. Ceremonies there will get underway at 2 p.m.

The keynote speaker at the rally will be a priest, Fr. Desmond Wilson, who works among the Nationalist poor in his Belfast parish.

A number of local political figures including Gov. Cuomo, and several Congressmen are expected to attend. Many leaders of Irish American groups will also be on hand.

Among the sponsors of the day are the Grand Council of United Emerald Societies, the Irish American Unity Conference, the Irish National Caucus, the Irish American Labor Coalition, the United Irish Counties Association and

the Irish Northern Aid Committee.

According to Dr. Philip Bolger, Solidarity Day committee chairman, the point of the day will be to bring the problems of Northern Ireland to the attention of the American people and government, and to press for American support for the committee's goals—human and civil rights for the people of Northern Ireland, the withdrawal of British troops and the reunification of Ireland.

Bolger criticized both President Reagan and Walter Mondale for what he called a "conspiracy of silence" regarding the Irish problem. He said both had instituted a policy of benign neglect and warned that supporters of a united Ireland could ignore the candidates who ignore the issue of Northern Ireland.

"The conspiracy of silence concerning the Irish question which is emanating from the presidential campaigns of both major parties compels us to call a special executive session of the Irish Solidarity Day Committee to decide upon an appropriate response to be recommended to the Irish population on Solidarity Day," he said.

W. L. F. 8/27/84  
FYI F  
Irish American Unity Conference  
571 Spencer Lane  
San Antonio, Texas 78201

August 13, 1984

Faith R. Whittlesey  
773 Millbrook Lane  
Haverford, PA 19041

Dear Ms. Whittlesey:

A nationwide "anti-Reagan" voter registration drive is causing concern in the Republican Party. Its chances of success are enhanced by disaffection among Republican Party members and of independents of minority groups, and by a reinvigorated grass roots response from non-party members on a particular issue.

One particular issue of concern to the Irish American community is that of British occupation of northeast Ireland and the denial of human rights there. Members of the 3,000 organizations among the 43,000,000 Irish Americans have now banded together in the Irish American Unity Conference for more effective, organized nation-wide political action.

The Republican Party's silence on the northern Ireland situation and President Reagan's apparent support of the Thatcher government's policies there have created vociferous opposition among Irish-Americans. (The facts of British brutality are available in proceedings of the European Court of Human Rights, reports of Amnesty International and of various commissions including Britain's own Bennett Commission.)

The Democratic Party adopted an Irish "plank" in its platform. The Republican Party has an opportunity to "go them one better" by adopting a "plank" similar to the enclosed or adopting as party policy the points outlined.

It would be ironic if, while the national ticket is emphasizing what has been done, congressional and senatorial seats are lost because of what is not done.

Sincerely,

*John B. Flannery*

John B. Flannery  
Director Membership Services

JBF/cmt

Enclosure

REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORM IRISH PLANK

AS PROPOSED BY IRISH AMERICAN UNITY CONFERENCE

The Republican Party expresses grave concern over the violence in Northern Ireland and urges immediate negotiations between representatives of the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, and all major political parties within the current boundaries of Northern Ireland. The United States should offer its good offices to assist in bringing together all political parties for the purpose of negotiations leading to an end to the causes of violence, because the conflict is a source of concern to freedom-loving people everywhere, especially to the Irish-American community, numbering 43.7 million by the 1980 Census.

The government of the United States must use its resources to help bring an end to the massive human rights violations in Northern Ireland, and to help the people of Ireland exercise their rights of national self-determination. A stable Ireland should be understood as a matter of enlightened self-interest for the United States and the entire North Atlantic community.

In this context, it must be further understood that the only hope for the establishment of a just and lasting peace and stability in all of Ireland, her islands and territorial seas lies in reunification under a sovereign Irish government.

We also condemn the efforts to limit American public debate on such foreign policy questions as Central America and Northern Ireland by denying visas to representatives of all political persuasions of those countries to visit the United States.

## IRISH PLANK IN THE DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM

The Democratic Party supports an active role by the United States in safeguarding human rights in Northern Ireland by achieving an enduring peaceful settlement of the conflict. We oppose the use of plastic bullets in Northern Ireland, and we urge all sides to reject the use of violence. The Democratic Party supports a ban on all commercial transactions by the U.S. Government with firms in England and Ireland that practice discrimination in Northern Ireland on the basis of race, religion or sex on an on-going basis. We affirm our strong commitment to Irish unity--achieved by consent and based on reconciliation of all the people of Ireland. The Democratic Party is greatly encouraged by the historic and hopeful Report of the New Ireland Forum which holds the promise of a real breakthrough. A Democratic President will promptly appoint a special envoy and urge the British as well as the political leaders in Northern Ireland to review the findings and proposals of the Forum with open hearts and open mind, and will appeal to them to join a new initiative for peace. The Congress and a Democratic President will stand ready to assist this process, and will help promote jobs and investments, on a non-discriminatory basis, that will represent a significant contribution to the cause of peace in Ireland.

AMBASÁID NA HÉIREANN

(202) 462-3939



EMBASSY OF IRELAND

2234 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N. W.

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008

FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE ISSUED IN DUBLIN ON FRIDAY 3 AUGUST 1984 AT 18.00 HRS

The Government is deeply concerned at the activities of NORAIID which is an organisation that has made no secret of its support for the IRA. NORAIID is an IRA front organisation and has been found to be such by the Courts in the United States. It has been condemned on numerous occasions by successive Irish Governments.

Delegations from NORAIID are not welcome in Ireland and no member of the Government or official will meet with them.

\* \* \* \* \*

6 August 1984

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Date: May 1, 1984

TO: FAITH WHITTLESEY  
THROUGH: FRANK DONATELLI

FROM: LINAS KOJELIS *LK*  
Associate Director  
Office of Public Liaison  
Room 438 OEOB, Ext. 2741

- ☒ FYI  
☐ For Your Review  
☐ Please Return By \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Comments

More bad news from the ethnic press.

*Linas -  
we have to  
discuss this  
Irish situation.  
Please advise.  
F.*

MAY 9 - 1984



April 7, 1984

IRISH ECHO/SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 1984

## VIEWPOINTVIEWPOINT

## A tale of New York...

Things happened last week in three cities. In New York, in response to their supporters and also to spokesmen and women of several Irish-American organizations all three Democratic presidential candidates spoke out on the Irish issue.

Walter Mondale strongly reaffirmed his support for a special U.S. envoy to Northern Ireland and said if elected President he would appoint such an envoy. Gort Hart re-issued a statement on Northern Ireland he had made earlier and he too voiced support for the special envoy proposal.

In a moving statement issued last Monday, Jesse Jackson showed a solid grasp of the issues which are of concern to Irish Americans.

Of course, when they are running for office, politicians tend to tell their listeners what they want to hear. But still, when was the last time all the candidates in a Democratic presidential primary addressed issues of concern to Irish Americans? The answer to that question is never.

So, at least for now, there is reason to believe that the Irish issue may actually get an airing in this presidential election.

## ...and of Washington...

In Washington last weekend delegates from the Irish American Unity Conference met with officials there. They had hoped to meet with someone in the White House, but had to settle for the State Department.

That meeting, apparently, was less than satisfactory. However, we urge the leaders of the Unity Conference to persevere. They are on the right track. The administration will have to start listening to its own citizens instead of to the London and Dublin governments very shortly.

Often, particularly in election years, what happens in Washington does not count half as much as what happens in New York or Los Angeles or Houston or many other towns, big and small, across the nation.

With all three Democratic candidates speaking out on the Irish issue, it is more than likely that the Democratic Party will have a strong "Irish plank" in its platform. The Republican Party would thus ignore the issue at its own risk.

President Reagan made significant inroads into the heavily Democratic Irish vote four years ago.

But he and his campaign advisers would be wise not to take for granted that he will do the same thing in 1984, unless there is some commitment to helping settle the

April 7, 1984

IRISH ECHO/SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 1984

## VIEWPOINTVIEWPOINT

### A tale of New York...

Things happened last week in three cities. In New York, in response to their supporters and also to spokesmen and women of several Irish-American organizations all three Democratic presidential candidates spoke out on the Irish issue.

Walter Mondale strongly reaffirmed his support for a special U.S. envoy to Northern Ireland and said if elected President he would appoint such an envoy. Gort Hart re-issued a statement on Northern Ireland he had made earlier and he too voiced support for the special envoy proposal.

In a moving statement issued last Monday, Jesse Jackson showed a solid grasp of the issues which are of concern to Irish Americans.

Of course, when they are running for office, politicians tend to tell their listeners what they want to hear. But still, when was the last time all the candidates in a Democratic presidential primary addressed issues of concern to Irish Americans? The answer to that question is never.

So, at least for now, there is reason to believe that the Irish issue may actually get an airing in this presidential election.

### ...and of Washington...

In Washington last weekend delegates from the Irish American Unity Conference met with officials there. They had hoped to meet with someone in the White House, but had to settle for the State Department.

That meeting, apparently, was less than satisfactory. However, we urge the leaders of the Unity Conference to persevere. They are on the right track. The administration will have to start listening to its own citizens instead of to the London and Dublin governments very shortly.

Often, particularly in election years, what happens in Washington does not count half as much as what happens in New York or Los Angeles or Houston or many other towns, big and small, across the nation.

With all three Democratic candidates speaking out on the Irish issue, it is more than likely that the Democratic Party will have a strong "Irish plank" in its platform. The Republican Party would thus ignore the issue at its own risk.

President Reagan made significant inroads into the heavily Democratic Irish vote four years ago.

But he and his campaign advisers would be wise not to take for granted that he will do the same thing in 1984, unless there is some commitment to helping settle the Northern Ireland impasse.

Irish Edition

5/84

## Hart on the Irish Issue

The complex and centuries-old socioeconomic divisions in the North of Ireland cannot be healed overnight, nor can they be cured by force of arms, by violence or by shortsighted neglect.

Admittedly, the search for a solution often appears hopeless, but this is only because the wrong questions are being asked. The debate should no longer center over who is responsible for this or that violence; condemning symptoms does nothing to cure the disease. One must instead ask how it is possible to eliminate the very cause of the violence in order to secure a just and lasting solution to the conflict.

All electoral initiatives in the past have failed for one fundamental reason: they have not taken into account the democratic wishes of the people of Ireland as a whole.

The best way, and in fact, the only way to establish a lasting peace is within a democratic All-Ireland context. Regardless of long fostered socioeconomic divisions, the fact must be recognized that Ireland is essentially one nation. With the acceptance of this historical fact, the first step on the road to a long overdue peace in that troubled land will have been taken.

As Americans, we share rich cultural and political ties with the peoples of Britain and Ireland; we are therefore in an ideal position to encourage, as a common friend, a peaceful and just resolution. It is my sincere wish that in these years ahead the United States will seize upon this opportunity to play a noble role in ending this tragic conflict, and in creating a new spirit of cooperation between the great peoples of both islands.

— December 27, 1983

Irish Edition .

5/84

# The White House

## No Irish Need Apply

The convention program of the Irish American Unity Conference was planned and published. Notices were sent to the membership.

Since the convention was being held in the national capital, and since it is traditional that some kid who raises a giant rutabaga or some pretty girl who gets crowned Pumpkin Queen gets a White House reception and a public relations photo taken with our President, it seemed only natural that a solvent, educated, respectable and eminently middle class delegation of American Irish voters would get a civil welcome, if not an Irish welcome, at the White House. They might even get a fleeting glance at Ronnie himself. Hell, if Princess Margaret ("The Irish, they're pigs") spends the weekend there, the taxpayers should at least get inside the door.

In February, Michael O'Finn, National representative of IAUC and Philadelphia area resident, called the White House Office for Public Liaison to arrange for a combined White House Office of Public Liaison and U.S. State De-

partment briefing at the White House. Remember when Faith Ryan Whittlesey was put in charge of getting all the ethnics and minorities to join the Ronnie Reagan team?

It was agreed with the White House OPL that 100 Irish American Unity Conference delegates would attend the briefing in the White House. The meeting was scheduled for 4:30 p.m. on March 31 in the old Executive Office Building.

The IAUC delegates would meet first at 4 p.m. at 17th and G Street in Washington, D.C. in front of the Executive Office Building. They would bring a photo identification and undergo a security check. The names of all IAUC delegates attending the meeting would be submitted to the White House OPL by March 28.

Michael O'Finn sent details of the scheduled White House meeting to John Flannery, Irish American Unity Conference Information Director, at the IAUC

*(Continued on page 4)*





by Jack Holland

IRISH ECHO March 31, 1984

## Ideology causes jitters in the Unity Conference

This weekend, the Irish American Unity Conference (IAUC) is holding a major convention in Washington, D.C. The IAUC's purpose is the very worthwhile one of attempting to bring together Irish Americans, from different groups, to thrash out a program and a strategy which would enable them to apply maximum pressure on American politicians to exercise their influence for what IAUC members see as the good of Northern Ireland.

Many of its supporters hope that such a powerful umbrella-organization would represent a breakthrough for Irish Americans concerned over the continuing war in Northern Ireland. However, the IAUC is not without its problems. One has just recently emerged, and though it might be seen as a side issue it does underline some weaknesses—not only in the IAUC—but in Irish-American attitudes in general to the Irish crisis. It in-

volves the barring of three Northern Ireland people from attending the convention.

The three who are barred are representatives of the Northern Ireland group Relatives for Justice (RFJ). The RFJ was formed to draw attention to the plight of prisoners held in Northern Ireland jails on the sole evidence of the so-called "supergrasses"—informers who, in exchange for their own freedom, plus a variety of other bribes, are prepared to indict their former colleagues in the paramilitary groups.

The three representatives, who plan to arrive in the U.S. this week, are Margaret Power, Brendan Brown and Deirdre McManus. They had planned to attend the IAUC convention this weekend, only to learn that their invitation had been suddenly rescinded. The reason: their alleged links to Marxism.

Margaret Power is the 60-year-old mother of Thomas Power, who has been held for

some two years on the testimony of supergrasses. Even though the evidence of one of the informers, Jackie Grimley, was recently thrown out of court, Power is still in custody on the evidence of another informer, Harry Kirkpatrick.

Brendan Brown is the brother of Jim Brown, who was arrested for the third time on the word of informers in May 1983. Like Power, he is one of the 40 or so men named by Harry Kirkpatrick. Recently, Jim Brown launched a hunger strike to attempt to draw attention to his case.

The third representative of the Relatives for Justice, Deirdre McManus, is the girlfriend of a prisoner held on informer's evidence in the Crumlin Road Jail in Belfast.

Their trip is being organized by the Long Island Committee for Legal Justice in Northern Ireland. Speaking for the committee, Vicky McFadyen said that she asked organizers of the

IAUC if the three might attend the convention. The IAUC agreed.

A spokesman for the conference told her that their registration fees would be paid for and that the necessary arrangements would be made for them to meet with Jim Delaney, the main organizer of the IAUC, as well as other delegates.

However, last week Ms. McFadyen was told by an IAUC organizer from Philadelphia that the three people from Northern Ireland were no longer invited. When she inquired as to why the IAUC had changed its mind, she said that she was at first told that the conference was full up.

Then, however, IAUC spokesmen said to her that the three were "communists" and that it would be embarrassing to the IAUC if British intelligence was to find out that "communists" had been invited to the convention.

Defending the ban, John Sugrue, the tri-state coordinator for the IAUC, echoed this concern when I spoke with him last week. He said, "We're going to Washington to meet with some key people—in the State Department, Defense Department, and Senators and Congressmen. You can imagine what would happen if they'd say, 'you're supporting Marxists.' They'd say the IAUC is supporting a Marxist take-over of Ireland." Mr. Sugrue also said that when the invitation was extended, "we didn't know that they were known Marxists."

He claimed that they were Marxists because the Relatives for Justice is associated with the Irish Republican Socialist Party (IRSP). His worry was that if Margaret Power, Brendan Brown and Deirdre McManus were to attend the convention and were asked by the media—or whomever—about their

political affiliations, "they wouldn't deny they were Marxists." This, he feared, would harm the IAUC's ability to win friends and influence people.

Ms. McFadyen responded: "The stupidest thing about this is that all they (the relatives) are going to do is to come over here and talk about the trials, the denial of human rights in Northern Ireland; they're going to be silenced. The British must love this."

When asked if the three were

Marxists, she replied: "When I talk to people on the phone I don't ask them if they're Marxists. We've never discussed political philosophy. They're here to talk about human rights violations, that's all."

As I said at the beginning of this column, the aims of the IAUC are worthy ones, and I wish it every success. Unfortunately, it has already allowed itself to be scared by a few editorials in The New York Times, where the term "Marxist" is not used in any meaningful way, but propagandistically—in order to frighten Irish Americans from espousing anything except the Irish or British Government lines on Northern Ireland.

In the Cold War atmosphere of Reagan's America, it is obviously all too easy to do this. No one knows whether Margaret Power, Brendan Brown or Deirdre McManus are Marxists. They were barred because each has someone close to them associated not with Sinn Fein or the IRA but with the IRSP. The IAUC would not ask what the alleged crimes of these prisoners were, yet seemed overly concerned with their political beliefs.

Should concern for one prisoner's plight differ from concern for another's because one of them believes in socialism—Marxist or otherwise?

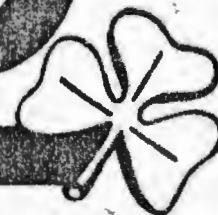
If Irish Americans are going to be so easily intimidated by half-baked propaganda, then it suggests a lack of confidence in their ideas about the Northern Ireland situation.

(Continued on Page 9)



# IRISH ECHO

THE LARGEST IRISH-AMERICAN NEWSPAPER



VOL. LVI, NO. 13

Saturday, MARCH 31, 1984

PRICE: FORTY CENTS

## Unity Conference to meet in Washington

Members of the Irish American Unity Conference will gather in the nation's capital this weekend (March 30-April 2) for the organization's first national convention.

During that time, IAUC members will meet with representatives of major business organizations, national labor unions and high-level government officials. Monday, April 2, is reserved for meetings between IAUC members and individual Congressmen to press for urgent attention to the serious problems confronting the Irish-American community.

James Delaney of San Antonio, Tex., national chairman of the IAUC, told the Irish Echo that a White House press briefing has been tentatively arranged for 4 p.m. on Friday, March 30. It is not known if President Reagan will attend the briefing

Delaney also said that Senator Gary Hart (D-Colo.), one of the three remaining Democratic president candidates, will meet with IAUC leaders during the weekend in Washington.

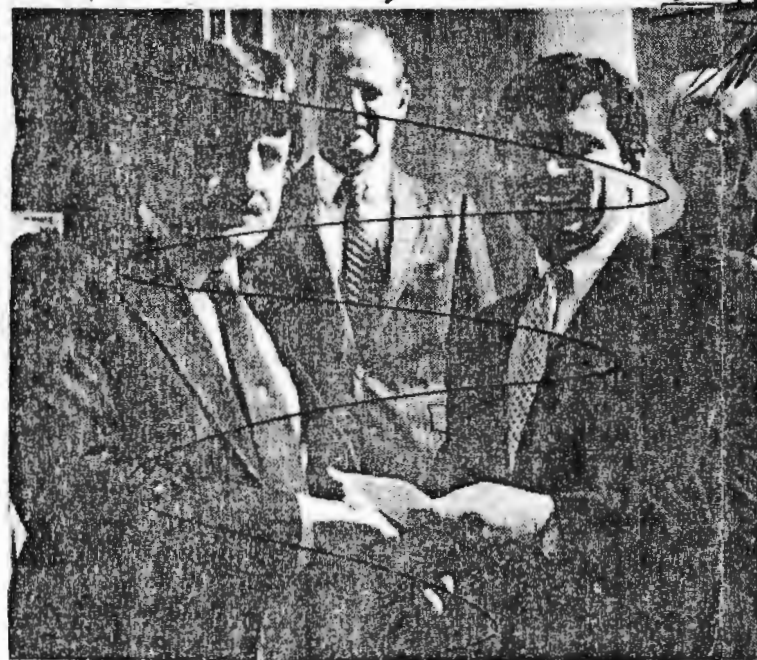
The IAUC, founded last July in Chicago when Delaney called together representatives from Irish American groups across the nation, has had a rapid growth. Delaney told the Echo that the Unity Conference now has 18,000 "paid-up" members.

The IAUC issued the following statement announcing its convention: "The dynamic growth of the IAUC since its birth in Chicago last July indicates the burning desire existing within the Irish American community for a unified action program to produce solutions to problems such as intense U.S. Government compliance to the wishes of the British Govern-

ment as regards the Irish in Ireland and the United States.

"Political activism to overcome our government's compromising attitude to Britain will be central to all discussions, and it is expected that a strong program of regional activities will come forth from the national convention.

"Since July 1983, the ballooning IAUC membership enrollment indicates the strong desire for unified action across the land. In six short months, 19 regional offices have been established. It is through these regional channels that grass roots activism will be directed. As the strength of the Irish American Unity Conference becomes more and more apparent at the grass root levels, so too it becomes inevitable that desired changes in national policy will be achieved."



### Project Children chairman honored

Project Children chairman, Denis Mulcahy, pictured left, is greeted by Assemblyman Buddy Fortunato in Trenton, N.J., on March 16. Looking in are Pat and Joe Barry and Pat Ruane of the Bloomfield area in New Jersey, who are Project Children Coordinators. The New Jersey Assembly passed a resolution honoring Denis Mulcahy for his efforts on behalf of the children of Northern Ireland. The Project Children program brings Catholic and Protestant children from the North of Ireland to the N.Y. metropolitan area for a summer vacation away from the strife. (New Jersey News photo.)

AMBASÁID NA HÉIREANN

(202) 462-3939



EMBASSY OF IRELAND

2234 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N. W.

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008

8 May 1984

Dear Linas

I enclose for background information a selection of initial Irish and British media coverage of the New Ireland Forum Report. The material is necessarily somewhat extensive, but, I have provided an index which I hope will allow you to identify and select articles of particular interest.

There has, of course, also been extensive coverage of the Forum Report, including editorials, in the U.S. media (e.g. Boston, New York, Washington, Philadelphia) and, I'll be glad to provide these as required.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Jim

James A. Sharkey  
Counsellor

JAS/msg  
Enclosures

P. S. I hope we can get together

soon  
Jim.



## C O N T E N T S

### SAMPLE PRESS COVERAGE OF NEW IRELAND FORUM REPORT

3rd - 7th MAY 1984

#### 1. REACTIONS IN IRELAND

- (a) Summary of Irish media coverage on 3rd May 1984.
- (b) Statements by the Taoiseach, Dr. Garret FitzGerald:
  - "An analysis by proud nationalists - Taoiseach": Irish Times: 3 May 1984.
  - "Taoiseach welcomes British reaction": Irish Times, 7 May 1984.
  - "FitzGerald: Unionist veto has to finish": Irish Independent: 7 May 1984.
  - "Taoiseach tones down U.S. role in Forum debate": Irish Times: 7 May 1984.
- (c) Statements by other (Forum) party leaders:
  - "Haughey describes report as historic": Irish Times: 3 May 1984.
  - "Haughey says media stress on differences uncalled for": Irish Times: 4 May 1984.
  - "Spring sees seeds of hope in consensus": Irish Times: 3 May 1984.
  - "Unitary State not sole option says Spring": Irish Times: 3 May 1984.
  - "A unique enterprise - Hume": Irish Times: 3 May 1984.
  - "Consensus is the key, says Hume": Irish Times: 3 May 1984.
- (d) Unionist Reactions
  - "Unionists join for anti-Forum propaganda": Irish Times: 4 May 1984.
  - "Forum a failure, says paper": Irish Times: 4 May 1984.
- (e) Irish newspaper editorial coverage:
  - "Historic Report": Irish Press: 3 May 1984.
  - "A Fair Contribution": Irish Times: 3 May 1984.
  - "A Document of Hope and Understanding": Cork Examiner: 3 May 1984.
  - "Agenda for Action": Irish News (Belfast): 3 May 1984.

#### 2. REACTION IN BRITAIN

- (a) Official comment:
  - "Prior gives brief report": Irish Times: 4 May 1984.
  - "Irish role recognised by Thatcher": Irish Press: 7 May 1984.
  - "Thatcher accepts need for a new move on North": Irish Times: 7 May 1984.
  - "Thatcher accepts an 'Irish Aspect'": Irish Independent: 7 May 1984.
  - "Cabinet welcomes British response": Irish Press: 7 May 1984.
- (b) Media coverage:
  - (i) Analyses of British press coverage:
    - "Forum ushers in reality, says British press": Irish Times: 4 May 1984.
    - "British press in part agreement": Irish Independent: 4 May 1984.
    - "Yankees v. the Irish": Irish Independent: 4 May 1984.
    - "British papers react favourably to Report": Irish Press: 7 May 1984.
  - (ii) Editorial comment:
    - "If not the Forum way, then how": editorial: The Guardian: 3 May 1984.
    - "The way from the Forum": editorial: Financial Times: 3 May 1984.
    - "Ireland's choice": editorial: Daily Mirror: 3 May 1984.
    - "No-go ideas on Ulster": editorial: Daily Express: 3 May 1984.



- "An Irish Mouse": editorial: Daily Telegraph: 3 May 1984.
- "One Island: Two Nations": editorial: The (London) Times: 4 May 1984.
- "Ireland: a New Start": editorial: The Observer: 6 May 1984.

(c) Other Analysis and comment:

- "Now I beg Mrs. Thatcher to concentrate her mind and energies upon the Irish problem": Daily Express: 3 May 1984. (George Gale, columnist of the year.)
- "British funding must continue": (report by Paul Johnson: The Guardian: 3 May 1984.)
- "The door that may be opening": Financial Times: 4 May 1984: (analysis by Margaret Van Hattem).
- "Ireland's ball in British court": London Times: 4 May 1984: (article by Shirley Williams, President of British Social Democratic Party).
- "Chance of a better deal for Ireland": letter in London Times: 4 May 1984: by former British Ambassador in Washington, Peter Jay.
- "Prior to press Mrs. T. for new Dublin move": The Observer: 6 May 1984: (report by Adam Raphael: political editor).

(d) The Irish Editorial perspective on the British response and role:

- "Forum: over to London": Irish Independent: 3 May 1984.
- "The Good News": Irish Times: 4 May 1984.
- "In the wake of the Forum": The Cork Examiner: 4 May 1984.
- "The British Aspect": The Irish Press: 7 May 1984.
- "Explaining": The Irish Independent: 7 May 1984.
- "Learning": The Irish Times: 7 May 1984.

3. UNITED STATES REACTIONS

- "Offer full backing of U.S., Kennedy tells Reagan": Irish Independent: 3 May 1984.
- "U.S. welcome for study's findings": Irish Press: 3 May 1984.
- "U.S. welcome for Forum Report": Cork Examiner: 4 May 1984.
- "Barry wins backing in Washington": Irish Press: 4 May 1984.
- "Wide coverage in U.S. papers": Irish Times: 4 May 1984.
- "DUP launch campaign in Washington": Irish Press: 4 May 1984.
- "Report will strengthen Anglo-Irish ties, says U.S.": Irish Times: 5 May 1984.
- "Reagan will back Forum": Irish Press: 5 May 1984.

4. OTHER REACTIONS

- "Welcome from Church of Ireland": Irish Times: 3 May 1984.
- "MEP greets Forum report": Irish Times: 4 May 1984.
- "Papers in Paris praise Report": Irish Times: 4 May 1984.
- "Forum 'a seed of hope,' priests told": Irish Times: 7 May 1984.

1. REACTIONS IN IRELAND

- (a) Summary of Irish media coverage  
for 3rd May 1984
- (b) Statements by the Taoiseach,  
Dr. Garret FitzGerald
- (c) Statements by other (Forum) party leaders
- (d) Unionist reactions
- (e) Irish newspaper editorial coverage

## SUMMARY OF IRISH MEDIA COVERAGE FOR 3RD MAY 1984

### New Ireland Forum Report

Irish Times lead story states Irish and British Government are to begin without delay studies of the Forum Report and preparing for an Anglo-Irish summit at which the Taoiseach (Prime Minister of Ireland) will impress on Mrs. Thatcher urgent need for an initiative on the North. Report continues that Taoiseach last night described a unitary state as the preferred option of the participants, but Mr. Haughey saw it as their only choice. It quotes Taoiseach's speech that Forum was not a blueprint for the Ireland of the future but an agenda for possible action. Report describes Forum as uncompromising in its attitude to the responsibility borne by Britain for conditions in the North. Irish Times report from London states Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, James Prior, yesterday welcomed parts of the Forum Report but criticised others. It continues that Prior is to study the report in detail and give a considered response to it later this month.

Irish Independent lead story states Taoiseach is preparing to tell Mrs. Thatcher that the Forum's conclusions have provided enough material with which to start foundations for a new system of government in Northern Ireland and that an initially hostile reaction from Britain did not diminish Dublin expectations that essential preparations had been made for a political breakthrough.

Irish Press lead story states sharp differences emerged with Fianna Fail leader's (Charles J. Haughey) view that a unitary state was Forum's only recommendation while Taoiseach indicated that other options are also on the table. It quotes Secretary Prior as saying that Forum analysis of British policy since 1920 was one-sided and unacceptable while agreeing that report contained positive elements.

Irish Times editorial states for perhaps the first time nationalist Ireland has studied the unionist dilemma thoroughly rather than arguing with it and has striven to see how it could be accommodated with the views of the rest of the people in the country. It states that there is more positive thinking in the document about the future relationship of orange and green than has been seen before and describes main message of Forum as one of hope.

Irish Independent editorial states that Forum is very clear on question of options and while Fianna Fail leader is right in stating unity is the solution all parties would like to see emerge, the report has had to face political realities by including other options and they are there to be explored. It concludes that people in the North cannot deny the honesty of purpose of the Forum or ignore the benefits which would flow to the island if one of the options in the Report were implemented.

Irish Press editorial states Forum will be seen as a moment in history at which constitutional nationalist tide swept up to a higher point than had been achieved since troubles began and that it was a pity report has produced something of an Irish stew-type reaction in the short term. It continues that it will now be up to Government to act on report and states that it is fairly clear which of the options carries most favour in the report but at this stage obviously nothing is ruled out.

-----



(b) Statements by the Taoiseach,  
Dr. Garret FitzGerald

## An analysis by 'proud nationalists' — Taoiseach

THE FOLLOWING is the statement by the Taoiseach, Dr Fitzgerald, to the closing session of the New Ireland Forum:

No-one can be in doubt about the historic character of this occasion.

While I have no wish to pretend that all the differences of approach to the problem of Northern Ireland which we, the parties in this Forum, brought to our work have been eliminated, I believe that we are also entitled to express satisfaction, and indeed to take a measure of pride in the work we have done together as the representatives of constitutional nationalism in this island — as parties representing almost three-quarters of the inhabitants of Ireland and over 90 per cent of those who share the majority nationalist tradition in the island.

Our analysis of the problem we face is an Irish nationalist analysis. We are, every one of us, Irish nationalists, and proud of our heritage. Others, in this island or in Britain who do not share our perspective will not agree with all the details of this analysis. It is right, nonetheless, that it should be placed on the record.

But having placed it on the record, we have gone beyond, I would say we have transcended, this analysis and interpretation of past events and we have sought to raise our sights to new horizons, and to set out ideas which could, we hope, form a basis for common ground between the two traditions in this island, and of common action by the two Governments in these islands, designed to reconcile these two traditions.

The report of the Forum is not a blueprint for the island of the future. The representatives of one of two traditions in this island cannot arrogate such a task to themselves alone. What we have together assembled is not a blueprint but an agenda for possible action.

The ideas we have put forward together show an openness to the other tradition in this island, and a sensitivity to the preoccupations of those who belong to that tradition, which have no precedent in Irish history.

I believe that this openness will be recognised publicly by many, and possibly privately by many more among those who do not share our perspective.

We in the New Ireland Forum are, I feel, entitled to hope that others, the British people and their leaders and those of the Unionist tradition, whose analysis of the background to the present situation may differ notably from our own, will show a similar openness in their approach to the resolution of the problems with which history has left us in this island.

Speaking for myself I have learned a great deal during this last year. The encounters we have had with witnesses of both traditions from Northern Ireland have, in particular, added a depth, a new realism and an added commitment to my feeling for the problem. I would venture to say that all my colleagues have had a similar experience. So, too, through the public session of the Forum, have the people of both parts of Ireland, but particularly, I believe, the people of this State who have thus been exposed in an unprecedented way to the views and attitudes of the Unionist tradition.

I would hope that the discussion of the work of the Forum in the months ahead will continue to deepen the awareness of all Irish people of the complexities of the problem.

As leader of Fine Gael and as Taoiseach I would ask every organisation in Ireland, every debating society, every social, cultural and sporting club, every family and every individual to study this report, to reflect on it and to bring to us the politicians, their own reactions.

There are, I suggest, three elements to the process started here today: the first must be an immense effort of reflection and education about this problem within the nationalist tradition, continuing what has now been begun. The second should be a similar effort on the part of the other protagonists to the problem of Northern Ireland. This we must encourage in the days ahead. And the third has to be action. This too we must work for, carefully, patiently and tirelessly.

I would like to pay tribute to all who have participated in this work. I must express my gratitude to my colleagues in my own party who, working together in comradeship, with realism and with dedication, have been responsible for our contribution to what has finally emerged. But I want to pay tribute, too, to the representatives of the other parties which have taken part in this exercise. They, like ourselves, have been quite clearly motivated by a determination to overcome obstacles in our way arising from the different perspectives and divergences in our past histories.

In the difficult, demanding, at times frustrating, and even nerve-wrecking, task of seeking common ground upon which we could build, none have held back, nor placed party advantage before the good of Ireland. I cannot think of any episode in our modern history to which our parties in this State have brought such a powerful commitment and unity of purpose.

May I say that the unique solidarity of the Forum owed an enormous amount to the inspiration and realism of our colleagues in the Forum from Northern Ireland, the SDLP, and much, too, to the helpful advice and criticism the Forum received from so many different quarters throughout Northern Ireland. For myself, it has been a unique privilege to participate in this Forum.

The debt we owe to the chairman and the secretariat is immense. This group of people, assembled together for this very special purpose, for the most part did not even know each other before they undertook this task. Some of them had little or no experience of working with politicians — which is a very special kind of activity indeed! Their dedication has been wholehearted. To their intelligence and to their ingenuity we, the political participants in this Forum, and the people of this island as a whole, owe an enormous debt.

Our report is, as I said, not a blueprint but rather an agenda: an agenda that presupposes further action. This report will be judged historically not by the skill with which divergent views have been meshed together or by its literary style, but by whether it did in fact lead to action that brought peace and stability to our island.

We, the constitutional and nationalist politicians in the island, cannot by ourselves produce the action necessary for this purpose. Others must play their part. It must be our hope and prayer that our action here will promote constructive reaction and that our action here will promote constructive reaction and that we and the other politicians in these islands who jointly have the responsibility for securing peace and stability in Ireland, will succeed in our task.

## Taoiseach welcomes British reaction

THE TAOISEACH, Dr Fitz-Gerald, said yesterday that because of his own mixed background he wanted a unitary State, the only solution which would produce, through the close interaction of the two traditions, the kind of liberal democratic State which could not easily be achieved by any other means. But if he were a Northern Unionist he would look, he said, at the federation/confederation solution to obtain equal partnership with the larger part of the island and the dignity of playing a full role. He was discussing the Forum report on the Radio Eireann programme "This Week".

The Taoiseach maintained that the British reaction to the report had been extremely good. The British media reaction which he had monitored closely was almost uniformly favourable and extended far beyond the range of papers which tended to be favourable to us into papers which normally adopted a rather critical view of Irish affairs; that was important.

Asked if he wanted a constitutional conference now, Dr Fitz-Gerald replied that such a conference was not referred to in the body of the report but the chapters on different forms of unity set out a unitary State and a federation/confederation and if you got agreement to move in that direction you needed a new constitution and obviously it would have to be drawn up at a constitutional conference. Such a conference need not necessarily be far in the future.

The next step was for the British Government to re-assess the position in the light of reactions to the report.

He added that the disagreement on the meaning of the report loomed less large in the British than in the Irish press.

He agreed that the proposed joint authority might be regarded in Britain as the only avenue. Certainly there had been insistence that the report contain those three models. "There would not have been an agreed report unless those models were there because many of us were conscious that if we put forward our aspiration to a unitary State and nothing else it could be seen by Britain as not a serious effort, as a re-statement of the 1920 position and as unwillingness to enter into serious discussion," the Taoiseach said.

Asked if a summit meeting with Mrs Thatcher was the next step he said that media people were fascinated by summits, but often for summits to be successful the work had to be done beforehand.

Asked if he wished the American President to endorse the report, the Taoiseach answered that any such endorsement was useful and favourable reaction in America and elsewhere helpful but the deciding factor was the attitudes of the British and Irish Governments and of the parties in Northern Ireland.

The Government must now take responsibility, the Taoiseach declared. "The matter is now in our hands. The Forum has done its work."

The president of the British Social Democratic Party, Mrs Shirley Williams said she would have given the Forum report more welcome than the British Government did. It was difficult for the Forum to come out in the way it did, given the constituencies of its parties. "It shows courage particularly in recognising the Protestant identity as a valid part of the Irish tradition and in its willingness to be self-critical in its analysis. It deserves a great welcome," Mrs Williams said.

# FitzGerald: Unionist veto has to finish

By CHRIS GLENNON

**TAOISEACH** Garret FitzGerald has made it clear that the Unionist veto on a united Ireland should not block a new form of Government for the North.

And British Prime Minister, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, in her first public response to the New Ireland Forum report, has accepted the importance of "an Irish aspect in solving the problem of the North."

She stated clearly that any government attempting to find a solution to the Northern conflicts cannot do so by being English or British alone.

"There is an Irish aspect to this," Mrs. Thatcher agreed.

But a formal Anglo-Irish Summit meeting between Dr. FitzGerald and Mrs. Thatcher to discuss the implications of the Forum report is unlikely before the Autumn.

Affairs Minister Mr. Peter Barry and British Secretary for Northern Ireland Mr. James Prior are expected to begin soon.

The Taoiseach is likely to run into direct conflict with Fianna Fail leader, Charles Haughey following his comments on the prestigious ITV "Weekend World" programme.

The clear implication drawn from the interviews was that Dr. FitzGerald would be prepared to back a power-sharing administration in the North.

Mr. Haughey maintains the view that the North has failed politically and economically and that peace and stability can only come through a unitary state with a single government and constitution.

#### MAJORITY BAR

The Taoiseach yesterday made his clearest statement of the "Unionist veto" stumbling block than at any time since he first came into government.

Britain's constitutional guarantee that the position of the North could not be changed until a majority there wanted that had come, Dr. FitzGerald declared, to be used as a veto on how Northern Ireland was governed within the existing situation.

This did not make sense, he said. The British Government must decide how any part of the U.K.

#### Continued from Page One

was governed as long as it remained in the U.K.

But Dr. FitzGerald did stress he would not wish to suggest imposing a solution on the North.

In a separate interview on RTE Radio, the Taoiseach spoke of common Anglo-Irish ground in the initial response from London to the Forum report published last Wednesday.

But he ruled out an early Summit meeting with Mrs. Thatcher. "If Summits are to be successful the work has to be done beforehand and a summit is not the crucial thing."

#### GUARANTEE

The British Prime Minister, in a BBC radio interview, reiterated the guarantee to the majority in the North that "they remain British unless they consent to having a different arrangement."

Mrs. Thatcher gave a firm undertaking to consider in detail the Forum report.

The underlying theme of Dr. FitzGerald's ITV interview was on the creation in the North of a form of administration to which both communities would lend allegiance and support.

The two Governments could underpin that administration without altering the sovereignty of the North.

After 30 years of Unionist rule and 10 of direct rule, Northern Nationalists could not accept, Dr. FitzGerald said, a new model of Government from which they would be excluded forever.

But power-sharing, he stressed, could not exist for decades. After a period of normalisation there could be a return to the majority rule produced in elections.

Dr. FitzGerald was challenged on "Weekend World" that he could not deliver on the Forum Report — that the "greens" would obstruct him. He replied: "Try me", and went on to state that the Irish people were very concerned to have the problem of the North resolved.

"I don't think any solution will be turned down by the Irish people", he declared.

If the developing British response to the report is maintained, the Taoiseach is not expected to request President Reagan, during his official visit here in June, to exert U.S. pres-



IRISH TIMES  
7 May 1984

# Taoiseach tones down US role in Forum debate

By Denis Coghlan

THE Taoiseach, Dr FitzGerald, differed publicly with the Fianna Fáil leader, Mr Haughey, yesterday, on the desirability of publicly asking President Reagan to endorse the Forum report and to call on the British Government to join in setting up a constitutional conference, when he visits Ireland in June.

Dr FitzGerald commented that there was recognition by the British Government that there was need for movement, he was not sure that outside pressure was helpful and that it could even be counter-productive.

The considered response by the British Government to the Forum report is expected to be made public in the week before President Reagan comes here. Following the publication of the report, official sources in London indicated that a formal response was likely to be released in about three weeks, and if that timetable is adhered to, the Government would be able to assess in advance any benefit that might be gained from involving President Reagan.

Already, Government sources are expressing satisfaction at the positive nature of the British Government's initial reaction and the television interview given by Mrs Thatcher yesterday has strengthened that impression.

In an interview in the *Sunday Independent*, the Fianna Fáil leader said that he would ask President Reagan during his visit here to endorse the report and to call on the British Government to join in setting up a constitutional conference.

Having identified the establishment of a unitary state as the particular wish of the Forum parties, in the interview, Mr Haughey added that he took little interest in the wording of the chapters on the federal/confederal and joint authority proposals because he did not think they were realistic options. Joint authority would be particularly disastrous, he said.

During the course of interviews with RTE radio and television, the Taoiseach was asked if he would seek support from President Reagan during his visit and he commented that "it doesn't neces-

sarily help to be mobilising pressure, if pressure isn't needed."

Earlier, when asked if he wished the United States President to endorse the report, Dr FitzGerald answered that any such endorsement was useful, and favourable reaction in America and elsewhere helpful, but the deciding factor was the attitudes of the British and Irish Governments and of the parties in Northern Ireland. In a situation where the British Government was unwilling to make progress, some external pressure could be useful — he knew of one such case although he was not in Government at the time — but when there was recognition by the British Government that there was a need for movement he was not sure that outside pressure was helpful; it could be even counter-productive, he said.

As far as a timetable for inter-Government talks was concerned, the Taoiseach commented that he thought that "we should start talks in weeks, rather than months and seek solutions in months, rather than years."

(c) Statements by other (Forum) party leaders

## Haughey describes report as historic

THE FOLLOWING is the statement of the Fianna Fail leader, Mr Haughey, to the final session of the New Ireland Forum:

The work of the New Ireland Forum represents an historic achievement. There is no precedent in the past 60 years for the coming together in one body of all the political parties representing nationalist opinion North and South. We have made a serious and sustained effort to study in depth the problem of Northern Ireland and to propound a political solution.

It is a major triumph that we have been able to agree on so much and I would like to pay tribute to my fellow-party leaders and the members of the respective delegations for their responsible, dedicated approach to the intimidating task which faced us all.

I wish to offer my deepest personal gratitude and that of my delegation and party to our distinguished chairman Dr Colm O hEogha. He undertook as a patriotic duty and without hesitation one of the most arduous and demanding tasks of modern Irish politics. His total commitment, his calm courteous patience and, above all, his determination that the Forum would succeed, contributed more than any other single factor to the successful outcome of our work.

To his talented and equally committed secretariat, to the respective delegation secretaries and all those many others who have helped us so significantly in one way or another in our historic task, I convey our deepest thanks.

The report we present today contains the considered views of those who represent three-quarters of the people of this island, and an overwhelming majority of those who see themselves as nationalists. The Forum has listened with care and attention to all those who have presented their views to us. The report takes into account all such views in its formulation and in its conclusion.

The Forum has succeeded in the task it set itself and has presented an agreed basis on which peace and stability could be built in a new Ireland. The report will, I believe, stand the test of time. It speaks for itself. Its agreed recommendations will form the basis of any genuine political progress. The report shows that careful thought has been given to the different obstacles and that there are none that cannot be overcome.

However, the objectives of the Forum cannot be accomplished by ourselves alone. We are now entitled, in the basis of our endeavours to ask all those who are in a position to do so, to address the problem with the same degree of seriousness and dedication we have devoted to it. We would ask them to study the report carefully and with an open mind. Not to do so would be in effect, be rejecting democracy and constitutional politics in Ireland, with all that entails. There is a very clear choice confronting everyone, to accept the Forum report as a basis for progress or to allow death and violence with all their destructive consequences to gain the upper hand.

The Northern people have a proud tradition, in which they have contributed greatly to Ireland's achievements in the fields of industry and commerce, in the fields of literature and the arts, and in many of the social and political struggles of the last two centuries. They have a rightful place in the leadership of this, their country. It is a challenge to which, I believe, they will sooner or later respond, to the enormous benefit of the country as a whole and all the people of Ireland.

When this happens it will bring to all parts of the island a resurgence of hope, and a prosperity and peace that has so long eluded us but which is our destiny and our right.

Rath Dé ar an obair atá déanta againn le chéile agus ar mhuintir na hÉireann uile.

# Haughey says media stress on differences 'uncalled for'

THE Fianna Fail leader, Mr Haughey, said in an RTE radio interview yesterday that the media emphasis on the differences between the party leaders at press conferences following the publication of the Forum report was "most unfortunate and totally uncalled for."

"The first thing everyone should do is concentrate on the fantastic amount of agreement; on the fact that four party political leaders, with our different beliefs, traditions and policies, would come together for so long and agree on so much," he said.

Interviewed by John Bowman, Mr Haughey said the Forum report was probably the greatest degree of unanimity and agreement which the party leaders were able to reach. "The fact that we were able to put together such an impressive compendium of realities which we were prepared to agree on, and to confront, was a most impressive political achievement. It was unhappy that we were all catapulted yesterday into instant comment, both politicians and journalists. It would have been better if we had all been able to sit back for two or three days, read the report and then give our reaction."

Asked if this meant he regretted anything he had said at this press conference, Mr Haughey replied: "Certainly not. Not at all. There is no question of that. What I said was that I asked everyone to stick to what the report actually said. That's all I want. I think that's what all the Forum members would wish. We were able to reach agreement on so much, and I think it's important to stick to that."

He continued: "Many of us would perhaps have liked more in the report and many would perhaps have liked things taken out. That doesn't matter. The report now speaks for itself; we agreed on it, and I want everybody in politics and in journalism to concentrate on what's in the report, not on what might have been in it, or what to add to it or subtract from it. I think it does no good, and serves no cause, for people to say 'You disagreed about this or that.' The report is very specific and I think we should accept it as it is and for what it says."

Mr Haughey said he did not believe there was any basic disagreement between the party

leaders on the report. "We all knew yesterday what we were going to say. Broadly speaking, all four of us knew what we were going to say about the report. There was no disagreement between us in that regard. It's important to realise what the Forum was. It wasn't a Government, or even a party, conference. It was four party leaders coming together in a very unique situation."

"I believe it was inevitable that when we had reached agreement on so much, every one of us, and the Taoiseach particularly, was quite entitled to say 'Look, that's the report, we've all agreed on that, and now I, as Taoiseach, or leader of Fine Gael, I want to give my view as to what is possible, and what should be attempted,' and so on. He is perfectly entitled to do that and I don't disagree with that in the slightest."

Mr Haughey said he might personally disagree with the Taoiseach's preference, but interviewers and commentators should not say that the party leaders could not agree. "Can't you concentrate on what we did agree on. Let us get this suggestion out of the way, that there was any great detractor from the effectiveness of the report because of the press conferences yesterday. I don't believe there was. We all, in all honesty, said 'That's the report, we agreed that much, now I would like to say this or that hereafter.'"

"We all now revert to our normal political roles and they are important. I think it's important that we should have constructive political discussions from here on. The report is now a basic document, agreed to the extent that it is by us all, and we now resume normal political operations. The Government has its responsibilities; it will hopefully take certain initiatives and actions, and will make certain proposals. We in the Opposition will look at them, maybe support them, maybe not, I don't know. The great volume of agreement generated by the Forum and enshrined in the report will now be a very satisfactory basis from which we can all work from here on."

Asked if he would go to the negotiating table if federalism or confederalism was on the agenda, Mr Haughey said that would depend. "First of all, the report envisages very clearly an all-round constitutional conference and that is for whatever proposals are put

forward. It is my view that it is at that all-round constitutional conference that we would disclose what we wish and would accept, and what we would agree or disagree with."

"In particular I think its terribly important that at that conference the Unionists for the first time would spell out for us their fears, 'this is what we want, this is what we want to preserve, these are the safeguards we would require.' It's only at that stage we will get down to the actual formulation of a new Constitution."

Asked again if he would "go to the conference table" to discuss a federal solution, Mr Haughey said: "I've gone to the conference table. If there is an all-round constitutional conference, called by the British and Irish Governments, I'll go to it. There's no question about that. What an all-round conference means is that all sections of our Irish community would attend. That's what it's all about, every section of the community, Unionists, Nationalists, the political parties. The important thing is that it would be under the aegis and guidance of both the British and Irish Governments. That's the important thing. I believe if that were to happen everything is possible from then on. I would be very, very optimistic."

Questioned about the significance of the reference in the report to a "unitary state," Mr Haughey said: "Let me direct your attention to specifically what it says. First of all, it says 'the political structure . . . ' the very definite article, the particular structure, and it doesn't say 'the political structure which we would favour' or ' . . . which we would approve of.' It is what we would wish to see established. Now that's very specific and categorical. All I'm asking is that people read that and read what's in the report."

He continued: "All day, yesterday I concentrated on asking everyone to read it, and to accept what was in it, not add to it or subtract from it. I didn't dismiss anything in the report at all. I said it spoke for itself. What any one of us might or might not have preferred doesn't matter."

Politicians and commentators should not be entering into hypothetical arguments about federalism at this stage, he said. "The Forum report is not hypothetical. Ninety-nine per cent of it is about

realities, a recounting of what has happened, a realistic account of the present situation, a very clear outlining of realities we must face, and then it goes on very specifically to spell out how we should accommodate those realities, and how we should get to that point. The principal mechanism is that the British and Irish Governments would now call the all-round constitutional conference to devise the Constitution for a new sovereign Ireland."

"Of course, it's that point that all the guarantees to the Unionists come into play. The Unionists at that all-round conference would spell out very clearly and in their own blunt, hard-headed way what they want, what their ethos is, what their beliefs are, what their traditions are, what they want preserved, what they want protected, and what guarantees they want to preserve and protect those things. There's nothing aspirational about that. That's a very clearcut mechanism and path to follow."

Asked if it was not aspirational in the sense that Unionists still had a veto "on the ground", Mr Haughey said: "Of course, yes. They don't have a veto. There is an Act of the British Government which provides a veto, and I think again the report is very good and very factual on that point. It points out that that veto was originally a guarantee about the constitutional position of Northern Ireland, but as time has gone on the Unionist politicians in Northern Ireland have used what was a limited constitutional guarantee to prevent any form of political dialogue with the Nationalist community. That's very clearly brought out in the report. In my view it is inherent and implicit in that report that the first thing is to remove that guarantee."

"But as I pointed out last night, it would be replaced by far better, far more effective, far more far-reaching and far more permanent guarantees in a new Irish Constitution."

Asked if it was not also a reality that Unionists had no interest in such proposals, Mr Haughey replied: "I think that is a situation which we cannot anticipate or come to any decision about until such time as the British Government positively responds to that report by doing what they should have done so often before, and that is call an all-round constitutional conference, and let us see what we can achieve."

Asked if unity by consent did not imply the right of Unionists to say no, Mr Haughey said Fianna Fail policy had always been that unity was "a natural thing which nobody had a right to impede or deny, that the unity of Ireland is a natural, logical thing which nobody has a right to prevent. But what we do say is that, once the unitary situation is accepted, then, of course, everybody, and particularly the Unionists, will have a right to disagree or agree, consent or not consent to the form of that unitary State, and particularly to the form of its Constitution."

Asked if his understanding of the concept of 'unity by consent' was not more narrow than the general understanding, Mr Haughey said this was not so. "I don't think any Irish Nationalist, and indeed Garret FitzGerald and Dick Spring, and John Hume and myself, I think we would all agree, that no Irish Nationalist would ever be prepared to say that unity was something that could be bartered, or that should not be acceptable to every Nationalist, as the only way in which peace and stability and happiness and prosperity can come to Ireland ultimately. That is the only way."

## THE IRISH TIMES

Price 40p incl. VAT  
40p sterling area

FRIDAY, MAY 4, 1984

No. 39,832 SPECIAL

# THE IRISH TIMES

Price 40p incl. VAT  
40p sterling area

THURSDAY, MAY 3, 1964

No. 39,831 SPECIAL

## Spring sees seeds of hope in consensus

The FOLLOWING statement was made by the Tanaiste and leader of the Labour Party, Mr Spring, to the closing session of the New Ireland Forum:

"For 11 months now, the parties in the Forum have been engaged in a unique process — a process aimed at fostering a climate in which lasting peace and stability on this island can be encouraged. The background against which this process began was a stark one.

Violence on our island has cost us too much, and achieved nothing. The cost of that violence, in terms of shattering lives and families, has contributed to an

alienation that is growing steadily. Even in purely financial terms, the cost of violence has sorely inhibited social and economic progress all over this island. For many people — even for many young people who deserve the best life we can give them — violence has become an end in itself and a way of life.

Into that background we have sought to inject an element of hope. The combined presence of the constitutional nationalist parties in the Forum has been of immense significance, even though, given the awful seriousness of the situation, there are many who would argue that this coming together of all who be-

lieved in the nationalist aspiration was long overdue.

In the process that we started those 11 months ago, we have tried to develop an understanding that there are *real* fears, *real* anxieties, among both traditions in Northern Ireland. We have tried to develop an *openness* to those fears and anxieties — and a determination to meet them in what we have proposed today.

It is of course, a source of regret to all of us that those whose beliefs and persuasions are not ours did not consider it in their best interests to engage in dialogue with us. Even though they did not come to join us, and even though this report is the pro-

nouncement of nationalist parties, I hope — and am confident — that its openness, its sincerity, and its total commitment to political progress through participation and co-operation, will lead to a willingness by all who read it — and particularly the Unionist people to look afresh at the possibility of a fruitful dialogue.

All of us who have participated in this Forum are looking now for progress. We are convinced that the dialogue we have begun, and the process of change to which we have committed ourselves, must find a response. That response must be based on generosity, and it must be based on a recognition that the cycle of fear and hatred on this island can only be broken

by the active participation of Britain, together with us, and the people of both traditions in Northern Ireland.

Before concluding, I too, want to say words of thanks. I want to thank first the leaders of the other parties in the Forum, with whom I have worked closely in this time, and all of the members of their delegations; and I particularly want to thank the chairman, Dr O hEocha, whose patience and wisdom have contributed much to our progress.

I want, on behalf of my delegation as well as my own behalf, to thank the secretariat and staff, all of those functions, from major to minor, were carried out in an impeccable way. Personally, I

want to thank the members of my own delegation, whose commitment and insight were of enormous benefit, not just to me but I think to the Forum as a whole. And I want finally to thank especially those hundreds of groups and individuals who submitted to the Forum their hopes, aspirations, and ideas.

Chairman, we will move now into a new phase. The theme which we must seek in the months and years ahead must be one of hope. In the consensus which we have endeavoured to forge, there are, I believe, the seeds of that hope. It is up to all of us, here and on the whole island, to provide the fertile soil, and the nourishment, for those seeds to grow.

# THE IRISH TIMES

Price 40p incl. VAT  
40p sterling area

THURSDAY, MAY 3, 1984

No. 39,331 SPECIAL

## Unitary State not sole option, says Spring

THE TANAISTE and Minister for Energy, Mr Spring, said that neither he nor the Labour Party regarded a unitary State as the only option and he referred to the other types of unity which were identified in the Forum report.

The Labour Party leader declined to comment on the views expressed by Mr Haughey on the document and said that the very existence of the document pointed to the degree of agreement that had been reached.

Asked how he viewed Irish unity, Mr Spring responded by referring journalists to the text of the report and to the structures and the realities that must be taken account of in any new situation or framework.

The report accepted that the Nationalist parties alone could not determine the shape of the new political developments and the parties had set out three models as examples. "From my point of view and from the Labour Party point of view all of those and other possible options can be discussed."

Asked if he felt that a unitary State was the only option, he said: "No. I am not saying that a unitary State is the only option. We have repeated the traditional aspiration of Nationalists for a unitary State in the report but we go on to set out in some detail other types of unity."

When it was put to him again that Mr Haughey had stated that the only option accepted as valid by the report was a unitary State and that a federal or confederal structure would not work, Mr Spring commented that the Forum had re-stated the traditional aspiration and then went on to set out the models and structures within which Unionists' aspirations could be protected within a new Ireland.

The four political parties involved in the process had their preferences for different types of solutions but he felt it was significant that they had identified more

than one possible solution to the problem. No matter what disagreements emerged in terms of party interpretation of the report, the report itself would stand and it was a consensus of the views of all parties. "I don't think any damage has been done to it, or can be done to it."

Questioned repeatedly on the status of the unitary State concept within the report, Mr Spring replied: "I think all four parties have a commitment to a unitary State and we have repeated that aspiration in the report. But we should look at the other positive aspects of the report where we examined the fears and the dreads of sections of society in the North and we have set out a framework within which they can be dealt with and that is far more significant than the re-stating of an aspiration."

Asked on how soon he expected a response from the British Government, the Tanaiste said that given the deteriorating situation in Northern Ireland, he would like to think that the British Government would respond in the short term. At the same time, he hoped that British politicians and those in Northern Ireland would spend some time in carefully reading and considering the report, and that there would be a response within six months.

He hoped the British Government would give the report the same detailed consideration as the four Nationalist parties had in drawing it up and, finally, Mr Spring commented that it would be a matter for the two sovereign Governments to decide on the timing of a constitutional conference, if it was decided to proceed with this option.



# THE IRISH TIMES

Prior 48p incl. VAT  
48p sterling area

THURSDAY, MAY 3, 1984

No. 29,531 SPECIAL

## Consensus is the key, says Hume

By John Cooney

AFTER his press conference the SDLP leader, Mr John Hume, told *The Irish Times* that he knew he would be on the defensive with the media on account of Mr Haughey's presentation, and said he had feared beforehand that not having read the report of the Forum in any detail the media would focus on areas of disagreement.

Mr Hume felt that the media had not realised that an agreed report did not mean uniformity of outlook on the part of the report's authors, and that journalists had not accepted the point that the report was the work of four political parties with different emphases.

Opening his press conference Mr Hume summarised the report's chief points, concentrating on its chapter on the realities of the situation in the North, the need to accommodate the two traditions, and the need for the British Government to join the Irish Government in creating the framework for talks.

Quickly and repeatedly he was questioned about his response to Mr Haughey's remarks, and whether the report favoured only a unitary State. Mr Hume replied that there was a very clear preference stated for the unitary State option, but that it was also very clear Mr Haughey had not said that an Irish Government should not discuss other matters with a British Government.

According to Mr Hume no matter what solution was put on the table for discussion with Britain or the Unionists, it would run into serious difficulties. The very important part of the report was

the statement on future discussions between Dublin and London which, he said, was sketched out with great clarity in the report in the context of the realities in the North.

Pressed on the status of the three options Mr Hume said that in effect none had status as they all depended on agreement from the British Government and the Unionists. However, as nationalists the Forum parties naturally would wish seek to seek a unitary State brought about with the agreement and the consent of Unionists. The other two options — federation and joint authority — were considered in detail by the Forum, Mr Hume added.

Mr Hume said that he would not rule out any proposal which might improve the situation. The reality of the report was that there were four parties with different emphases which, quite remarkably, had reached an agreement that a year ago was the subject of cynicism. Mr Hume said he had expected the media would concentrate on disagreement rather than on the report's consensus.

Everyone should read the Forum report, Mr Hume urged, adding that he would like to hear responses to it especially from Unionists, though he regretted that they had reacted before ever seeing its text. At the end of the day, however, there would have to be dialogue.

Mr Hume praised Mr Haughey's contribution to the Forum's production of a remarkable document and he defended the Fianna Fail leader's right to express his view that the federation and joint sovereignty options were unworkable. But Mr Hume made it clear again that it was his view that the problem was constructing the table, not defining specifically what would be on it.

# THE IRISH TIMES

Price 40p incl. VAT  
40p sterling area

THURSDAY, MAY 3, 1984

No. 39,831 SPECIAL

## A unique enterprise — Hume

THE following statement was made by Mr John Hume, MP, MEP, leader of the SDLP, to the closing session of the New Ireland Forum:

This is an extraordinary day in the history of our island. It marks the culmination of a unique enterprise. I believe it is no exaggeration to say that the terms of the debate on the future of this island have been completely transformed. Things cannot be the same again.

For the first time since 1920 the representatives of the nationalist tradition in Ireland have together worked out a common position and forged in common a powerful instrument for peace in Ireland.

The report of the Forum, which is now before the world, can, of course, be read from many perspectives. Some people will like parts of it more or less than other parts. So far as the men and women who worked out this set of insights are concerned, there is only one condition we ask of our readers: We ask them to see that the report of the Forum is, as it was intended to be a work of peace and reconciliation. Anyone who sees or who affects to see in this statement an intention to encourage or sustain division or hatred can only have misread our words. The report does not

attempt to wish away intractable or uncongenial problems: We have, I believe, attempted to face them squarely and honestly. Some of our readers may think we have been too hard on this or that protagonist. I think we can fairly answer that we have also been hard on ourselves.

To me personally the outstanding merit of the report is that it tries to do the most difficult thing of all in the case of Northern Ireland, which is to tell the *truth* about that very complex situation. In saying this, I do not pretend that all of our judgements are absolutely correct. I do say that our intentions and our efforts to tell the truth were sincere and rigorous.

In Northern Ireland, where I come from, people have been made dizzy with lies and half-truths, with the malignant big lie of those who destroy life while pretending to serve freedom, and the pusillanimous half-truths of those who cannot bring themselves to face the full dimensions of our problems.

This is a courageous, imaginative and generous document and Irish nationalists everywhere can take pride in its achievement. They should do so. The leaders of Irish nationalism have shown the way. We must all put our differences behind us and unite in a

single, powerful commitment to resolve this problem peacefully.

We now say to the British Government and to British politicians: You may not like everything in this report but you can no longer deny the sincerity and the good faith of our efforts. What we ask you to do is to examine your own situation as we have done ours. Irish nationalism has honestly examined its own position and is ready to talk with you. This report provides the basis for such discussion. The people of Northern Ireland and the people of our two islands cannot afford that you should miss this opportunity.

To the unionists of the North, with whom we share this piece of earth, Irish nationalism can today repeat De Gaulle's ringing affirmation of reconciliation to the Algerians: "Je vous ai compris." We understand your position. And we accept that before now we may not have fully understood. We ourselves can add both to the British and to those of the Unionist tradition: You too must understand *our* position. We too have an identity. We too have rights.

Coming from the North I would like, on behalf of those I represent, to pay the warmest possible tribute to Dr Garret FitzGerald, Mr Charles Haughey and Mr Dick Spring. We in the SDLP have been deeply moved by the sheer strength of their commitment and

their dedication to the tasks of this Forum. Together we have met on 97 occasions. We have otherwise worked in smaller working groups or in our own delegations. I realise that this has placed an unprecedented strain on the time of both Government and Opposition parties. From where I look out on Ireland — from the Bogside in Derry City — I believe I can say that no earlier generation of leaders in the South have shown any greater commitment than the three men sitting beside me today and their delegations.

Mr chairman, on behalf of my party, I thank you for your own immense contribution to this enterprise. You have throughout this last year demonstrated remarkable dedication and patience. Politicians are not, as even we ourselves are prepared to admit on occasions like this, always the easiest customers to deal with. And may I add our thanks to an imaginative and brilliant secretariat of the New Ireland Forum to which all of Ireland owes a considerable debt.

This has been a fundamental episode in the life of this island. It will be seen to have been so by future generations of the Irish and British people who, like those of this generation, will have reason to be for ever grateful to the men and women of the New Ireland Forum.