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Last Updated: 05/09/2025

THE WHITE HOUSE

The President has seen____

WASHINGTON

February 3, 1981

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

RICHARD ALLEN

SUBJECT:

Irish Embassy project

The Irish Embassy is delighted to inform the Irish government that you indeed have an interest in "tracing your roots." The project will go ahead, and the Embassy has informed me that it will remain a private undertaking and that the results will be presented to you in due course.

I trust this meets with your approval.

cc: Edwin Meese

James A. Baker

RECEIVED 04 FEB 81 16

TO

DEAVER, M

FROM ALLEN

DOCDATE 03 FEB 81

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KEYWORDS: IRELAND

VISIT

HAUGHEY, CHARLES J

AP

DONLON

SUBJECT: APPT REQUEST FOR PM HAUGHEY W/ PRES ON 17 MARCH

ACTION: ALLEN SGD MEMO TO DEAVER DUE: 26 FEB 81 STATUS X/S FILES

FOR ACTION

FOR COMMENT

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FOR INFO

RENTSCHLER

TYSON

FARRAR

COMMENTS

REF#

DISPATCH

LOG 8100483

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WATTACH FILE____

DATE 02/25/81

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 001

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MESSAGE ANNOTATIONS

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MESSAGE!

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DECLASSIFIED

NLRR 748-25-23-1-5

BYLOGO NARA DATE 7/1/1

TO SECRTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6214

CONFIDENTIAL DUBLIN 00068 LIMDIS/ E.O. 12865; RDS-1 2/18/87 (SHANNON, WILLIAM V) OR-M TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, EI, US SUBJECT: POSSIBLE HAUGHEY VISIT TO U.S.

1. Z-ENTIRE TEXT.

2. DURING A FEBRUARY 15 MEETING WITH U.S. SENATOR CHRISTOPHER DODD (DECONN), IRISH PRIME MINISTER HAUGHEY TOLD AMBASSADOR SHANNON THAT HE PROBABLY WILL NOT GO AHEAD WITH TENTATIVE PLANS HE HAD TO PAY A PRIVATE VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN MARCH. HAUGHEY COMMENTED THAT, ON REFLECTION, HE THOUGHT IT WOULD NOT BE A PARTICULARLY GOOD TIME TO GO SINCE THERE WOULD BE A LONG LINE OF GOVERNMENT HEADS WAITING TO SEE PRESIDENT REAGAN. AS A RESULT, THERE WOULD NOT LIKELY BE SUFFICIENT TIME FOR GOOD SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT AND OTHER U.S. LEADERS.

3. TALKING SHORTLY AFTERWARD WITH AMBASSADOR SHANNON, SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT DERMOT NALLY SAID NO FINAL DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN BUT ADDED THAT IT'S "ABOUT 80" PERCENT CERTAIN" THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD NOT TRAVEL TO THE U.S. IN MARCH.

4. HOWEVER, AT FOREIGN MINISTER LENIHAN'S FEBRUARY 15 LUNCHEON FOR SENATOR DODD, LENIHAN TOLD AMBASSADOR SHANNON THAT HE HAS BEEN URGING THE PRIME MINISTER TO UNDERTAKE THE TRIP AND STILL HOPES HE WILL DO SO.

******* CONFIDENTIAL ****

PAGE 002

DATE 02/25/81

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

MESSAGE (CONTINUED) :

5. COMMENT. THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATED REASONS FOR RELUCTANCE TO VISIT WASHINGTON IN MARCH MAY NOT BE THE ONLY ONES. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT HE WANTS TO STICK CLOSE TO HOME IN THE RUN-UP TO AN IRISH GENERAL ELECTION WHICH IS WIDELY EXPECTED HERE TO BE SOMETIME THIS SPRING. SHANNON

PSN: 006917

TOR: 049/13:112

ATG: 1812537 FEB 81

******* O N F I D E N T I A L******

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

Date: 2/26/81

NOTE FOR:

DICK ALLEN

The attached was returned in the President's outbox, and is forwarded to you for your information.

(, 60).

Richard G. Darman
Deputy Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
(X2702)

cc:

OK w. Deaver

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

RECOMMENDED TELEPHONE CALL

Call mar 2/26/8/

TO:

Senator Edward M. Kennedy

(D-Massachusetts)

DATE:

Before or during State Visit of Prime

Minister Margaret Thatcher

RECOMMENDED BY:

Max Friedersdorf Pam Turner

PURPOSE:

To respond to Senator Kennedy's phone call to you of February 24, 1981. Senator Kennedy wants you to discuss the Northern Ireland situation with Prime Minister Thatcher.

BACKGROUND:

In addition to his phone call, Senator Kennedy has written you a letter suggesting that you compliment Prime Minister Thatcher on the progress she and Prime Minister Haughey of Ireland are making toward improving relations between their two countries. He suggests further that you initiate the idea of linking a settlement of the conflict in Northern Ireland to participation by the Republic of Ireland in defense arrangements of the Western allies. He thinks the Irish would be receptive, provided the settlement involves some form of Irish unity. Senator Kennedy says he is still trying to find Ballyporeen on his map of Ireland and suggests you visit there with him.

The State Department and NSC oppose Senator Kennedy's initiative and suggest that you not bring this up with Mrs. Thatcher.

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:1. You are returning the Senator's call.

Let him outline his pruposals to you,

and mention that you have received his

letter.

2. Thank him for his suggestions on this sensitive and complex issue. Agree that the progress toward resolution of this conflict is encouraging. The line you are in the process of developing your agenda for discussions with Mrs. Thatcher and will take his suggestions under advisement. Do not commit to discuss this idea with Mrs. Thatcher.

P- Pls --->

6 A

3. Thank him for the note about Ballyporeen.

DATE OF SUBMISSION: February 24, 1981

ACTION:

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

February 13, 1981

DECLASSIFIED

Confidential

The President The White House Washington, D.C.

005023

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to express my strong hope that you will raise the issue of Northern Ireland when you meet with Prime Minister Thatcher later this month. She and Prime Minister Haughey made historic progress last December in moving together toward improved relations between their two countries, and it would be very constructive if you were to welcome this progress and to support continued development of their unique relationship.

I believe it would be especially useful for you to suggest an initiative linking a settlement of the conflict in Northern Ireland to participation by the Republic of Ireland in defense arrangements of the Western allies. I believe that the Government of Ireland may be receptive to participating in such defense arrangements along the lines described in the brief memorandum enclosed. By suggesting this approach, I think you would make a major contribution to the goals of peace and security in Ireland and in Northern Europe -- and to the well-being of NATO as a whole.

I hope to discuss this matter personally with you, if possible. You have my best wishes for a successful meeting with the Prime Minister.

Sincerel

Edward M. Kennedy

Attachment

cc: The Honorable

Alexander M. Haig, Jr.

DEFENSE-RELATED INITIATIVE ON NORTHERN IRELAND FEBRUARY 13, 1981

A. THE PROPOSAL

- 1. In addition to other topics on the agenda for President Reagan's talks later this month with Prime Minister Thatcher, the President may wish to pursue an initiative linking a settlement of the conflict in Northern Ireland to participation by the Republic of Ireland in defense arrangements of the Western allies.
- 2. There is reason to believe that the Government of Ireland may be receptive to participation in such arrangements, provided that the participation is linked to a long-term settlement on Northern Ireland involving some form of Irish unity achieved by the consent of the parties.
- 3. A possible step along these lines would be a joint defense arrangement between Ireland and Great Britain. It is possible that such an arrangement might eventually be linked to the NATO defense structure.
- 4. A defense arrangement would be a departure from Ireland's long-standing policy of neutrality.

 Acceptance of some form of Irish unity would be a departure from Great Britain's long-standing policy on Northern Ireland.

Therefore, the possibility arises that a significant British action on Northern Ireland might be accompanied by a significant Irish action on defense.

- 5. An initiative from the United States is appropriate at this time, because of the highly successful outcome of the meeting in Dublin last December between Prime Minister Thatcher and Prime Minister Haughey of Ireland. That meeting pledged increased contacts and cooperation between the two nations on all issues.
- B. <u>Suggested Talking Points for President Reagan's Conversation</u> with Prime Minister Thatcher.
- 1. It would be of great importance to our common defense interests if the Republic of Ireland can be brought into Western defense arrangements.
- 2. I have reason to believe that Ireland may be prepared to consider such defense arrangements as part of an acceptable settlement on Northern Ireland.
- 3. I realize the sensitivity of the Northern Ireland issue, and I also realize the complexity in moving toward a settlement that involves some form of Irish unity.

- 4. The United States stands ready in every possible way to facilitate a settlement on Northern Ireland satisfactory to the parties.
- 5. If Irish participation in joint defense arrangements can become part of a future settlement on Northern Ireland, I would welcome it.