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**Collection:** Executive Secretariat, NSC: Head of State File:  
Records, 1981-1989

**Folder Title:** Ireland: Prime Minister FitzGerald, First Term  
(8104231)

**Box:** 16

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*Last Updated: 05/08/2025*

# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

## Ronald Reagan Library

Case:1027

Archivist: David Bridge

DOC	TYPE	DATE	PAGES	CLASS.	CLOSED
1	Letter	07-23-1981	1		04-16-2003
	NSC #: WHORM Subject #: To: Garrett Fitzgerald From: Ronald Reagan Subject: Northern Ireland [1] <b>Restriction : FOIA(b)1</b>				
2	Memorandum	07-20-1981	1		04-16-2003
	NSC #: 8104231 WHORM Subject #: To: The President From: Richard Allen Subject: Response to Irish Prime Minister Fitzgerald [3] <b>Restriction : FOIA(b)1</b>				
3	Memorandum	07-14-1981	1		04-16-2003
	NSC #: 8104231 WHORM Subject #: To: The President From: Richard Allen Subject: Irish Prime Minister Fitzgerald and the Situation in Northern Ireland [9] <b>Restriction : FOIA(b)1</b>				

**COLLECTION:** Executive Secretariat, NSC: Records

**SERIES:** Head of State Files

**TITLE:** Ireland: Prime Minister Fitzgerald, First Term (8104231)

**OA/ID NUMBER:** Box 16

**BOX NUMBER:** 16

**Folder #:** 1 of 1

### Restriction Codes

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]  
 PRA-1 -National Security Classified Information.  
 PRA-2 -Relating to the appointment to Federal Office.  
 PRA-3 -Release would violate a Federal statute.  
 PRA-4 -Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information.  
 PRA-5 -Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors.  
 PRA-6 -Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.  
 C. -Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donors' deed of gift.  
 PRM. -Closed as a personal record misfile.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]  
 FOIA(b)(1) -National security classified information.  
 FOIA(b)(2) -Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency.  
 FOIA(b)(3) -Release would violate a Federal statute.  
 FOIA(b)(4) -Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information.  
 FOIA(b)(6) -Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.  
 FOIA(b)(7) -Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes.  
 FOIA(b)(8) -Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions.  
 FOIA(b)(9) -Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells.

DOC	TYPE	DATE	PAGES	CLASS.	CLOSED
4	Talking Points/Briefing Paper	07-14-1981	1		04-16-2003
	NSC #: WHORM Subject #: To: From: Subject: Talking Points for the President's Use During Visit to the Irish Embassy July 14 [10]				
	<b>Restriction : FOIA(b)1</b>				
5	Memorandum	07-14-1981	1		04-16-2003
	NSC #: 8104231 WHORM Subject #: To: Richard Allen From: James Rentschler Subject: President's Reply to Irish PM on Doherty [11]				
	<b>Restriction : FOIA(b)1</b>				
6	Letter	ND	1		04-16-2003
	NSC #: WHORM Subject #: To: Garrett Fitzgerald From: [Ronald Reagan] Subject: Annotated Draft [14]				
	<b>Restriction : FOIA(b)1</b>				
7	Transmittal Memo/Buckslip	07-14-1981	1		04-16-2003
	NSC #: 8104231 WHORM Subject #: To: From: Subject: NSC Profile Sheet [19]				
	<b>Restriction : FOIA(b)1</b>				

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DOC	TYPE	DATE	PAGES	CLASS.	CLOSED
8	Letter	07-14-1981	1		04-16-2003
	NSC #: WHORM Subject #: To: The President From: Garret Fitzgerald Subject: Doherty [5] <b>Restriction : FOIA(b)1</b>				
9	Memorandum	07-14-1981	1		04-16-2003
	NSC #: 8121133 WHORM Subject #: To: Richard Allen From: Paul Bremer Subject: Reply to Letter from Irish Prime Minister Fitzgerald on Northern Ireland [12] <b>Restriction : FOIA(b)1</b>				
10	Letter	ND	1		04-16-2003
	NSC #: WHORM Subject #: To: Prime Minister [Fitzgerald] From: Ronald Reagan Subject: State Department Suggested Reply [13] <b>Restriction : FOIA(b)1</b>				

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AMBASÁID NA HÉIREANN

(202) 462-3939



EMBASSY OF IRELAND

2234 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N. W.

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008

July 14 1981

Dear Mr President

I have been asked by Dr Garret FitzGerald,  
Taoiseach (Prime Minister) to transmit to  
you the attached message.

I have the honor to be, Mr President,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Seán Donlon'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Seán Donlon  
Ambassador of Ireland

The President  
The White House  
Washington DC

#4231  
relo

RECEIVED

81 JUL 17 P 4: 15

JANET COLSON

J 7/16/72

BUD NANCE

RWA 14

DICK ALLEN

IRENE DERUS

JANET COLSON

BUD NANCE

KAY

CY TO VP

SHOW CC

CY TO MEESE

SHOW CC

CY TO BAKER

SHOW CC

CY TO DEEVER

SHOW CC

CY TO BRADY

SHOW CC

## NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

UNCLASSIFIED WITH  
CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENT

July 17, 1981

RVA HAS SEEN

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD V. ALLEN

FROM: JAMES M. RENTSCHLER

SUBJECT: Reply to Irish PM FitzGerald

As per Janet's instruction, your memo to the President (Tab I) recommends his signature on an appropriate reply to the message Irish Prime Minister Garrett FitzGerald sent him July 14.

State and the speechwriters have recleared this text.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the memo to the President at Tab I.

Approve ✓ As Amended       

Tab I Memo to the President  
A - Letter for the President's Signature  
B - Incoming Letter

UNCLASSIFIED WITH  
CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENT

UNCLASSIFIED UP  
OF CLASSIFIED EX

*I made an error -  
marked the  
P's memo  
Simply write out  
my mark  
7/19/81*



#4231

Jim Deutscher

done  
7/17/81

OK

The plan (at least for now!) is to send the letter forward.

Could you do a brief forwarding memo to the ③ summarizing events to date, incoming Irish letter, & proposed outgoing.

Because we want to get this to the ③ before Ottawa maybe, it will need to be hand carried over this afternoon 😊

Thanks; Jim



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

S/S 8121202

7/16  
orig to NSC  
#4231  
for

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(Entire text)

July 15, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. RICHARD V. ALLEN  
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Contingency Press Guidance on Irish Prime Minister  
FitzGerald's July 14 Letter to the President

Attached for NSC clearance is contingency press guidance  
for the Department spokesman's use in replying to questions  
concerning Prime Minister FitzGerald's July 14 letter to the  
President on Northern Ireland.

*John H. Kelly*  
for L. Paul Bremer, III  
Executive Secretary

Attachment:

Contingency Press Guidance.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

GDS 7/15/87

DECLASSIFIED  
Department of State Guidelines, July 21, 1997  
E/ 105 NARA, Date 5/13/02

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(Entire text)

PRESS GUIDANCE (If Asked)

LETTER FROM IRISH PRIME MINISTER FITZGERALD  
ON NORTHERN IRELAND

Q: Can you confirm press reports that the President received a letter yesterday from Irish Prime Minister FitzGerald on Northern Ireland?

A: The President did receive such a letter.

Q: Can you comment on the content of the Prime Minister's letter?

A: We do not comment on the substance of what we regard as private diplomatic correspondence. I can say only that the President will be replying to the letter shortly.

Q: What is the US Government's position on the Northern Ireland hunger strike?

A: Throughout the period of the hunger strike, we have made clear our regret at the deaths it has brought about, including of those persons innocently caught up in the violence it has engendered. The recent deaths of Mr. Martin Hurson and Mr. Joseph McDonnell were all the more tragic at a time when it appeared a way might be found to resolve this issue. We sincerely hope that the hunger strike can be brought to a peaceful conclusion and that there can be an end to the violence in Northern Ireland.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

GDS 7/15/87

DECLASSIFIED

Department of State Guidelines, July 21, 1997

hst NARA, Date 5/13/02

17  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- 2 -

Q: There are six other hunger strikers at the Maze Prison. Does the United States plan to intervene with the British Government to prevent them from dying?

Q: While we do not intend to intervene in the current situation in Northern Ireland, both the President's personal feelings and this country's policy, as outlined in the President's March 17 statement, are well known.

Q: What is that policy?

A: We will continue to urge the parties to come together for a just and peaceful solution, and we will continue to condemn all acts of terrorism and violence. The President has also called on all Americans to question closely any appeal for financial or other aid from groups involved in the Northern Ireland conflict to ensure that contributions do not end up in the hands of those who perpetuate violence, either directly or indirectly.

Q: In his March 17 statement, President Reagan offered the "good offices of the US" to help bring peace to Northern Ireland. Does this mean the US intends to assume a role as mediator in the conflict?

A: No. The statement means that the US is prepared to support in any way possible a just and peaceful solution to the conflict.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REFERRAL

DATE: 23 JUL 81

MEMORANDUM FOR: STATE SECRETARIAT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

TO: FITZGERALD, GARRET

SOURCE: PRES

DATE: 23 JUL 81

KEYWORDS: IRELAND

GREAT BRITAIN

DOHERTY, KIERAN

HUMAN RIGHTS

HS

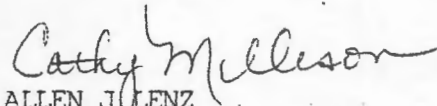
SUBJ: PRES RESPONSE TO LTR RE HUNGER STRIKE

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REQUIRED ACTION: FOR DISPATCH

DUE DATE:

COMMENTS:

  
FOR ALLEN J. LENZ

STAFF DIRECTOR

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FOR NSC USE ONLY

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FOR INFO

F

O MB C CM