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June 7

Comments:

Following statement was issued by the White House Press Office June 5.

Kevin [Signature] 10/6

*Mr. [Signature] to see + copy to Mr Godfrey [Signature] 9/6
for our Washington file
we may wish to draw on the
Lansan express, particularly re IFI future
negotiations.*

Linky Copy to Mrs Yang & [Signature] 8/6



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WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON IRELAND CALLED SUCCESSFUL

(White House transcript)

The following statement was released by the White House Press Office on June 5.

President Clinton hosted the White House Conference for Trade and Investment in Ireland May 24-26, 1995, a successful milestone in the Administration's efforts to underpin political progress and economic revitalization in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland most affected by past violence. As the President emphasized during the Conference, this effort is ongoing. The President has directed the executive agencies to continue to identify additional ways in which the U.S. can support peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland.

Office of the Special Advisor for Economic Initiatives in Ireland

Last December the President appointed Senator George Mitchell as Special Advisor to him and the Secretary of State for Economic Initiatives in Ireland. The Office of the special Advisor at the State Department, under Senator Mitchell's leadership, will continue to work closely with other government agencies and private entities to coordinate implementation of the President's economic initiatives.

Increased U.S. Funding for the International Fund for Ireland

The President's budget request for FY96 includes a proposed \$10 million increase in funding for the International Fund for Ireland (IFI), for a total of \$29.6 million. In light of the important role the IFI is playing in supporting the peace process and development of new economic opportunities to the areas most affected by violence, the President will urge the Congress to join with the European Union in increasing funding for this vital effort.

Technology Trust Fund for Peace

The Administration and the IFI will explore the U.S. proposal to set up a Technology Trust Fund which would identify and support joint ventures in applied research and development between private companies in Northern Ireland and the six border counties and U.S. partners. The Department of Commerce will lead our government's explanation of the potential benefits, with help from the U.S. Agency for International Development. Commerce Assistant Secretary Charles Meisner and Assistant Secretary Mitchell will travel to Dublin, Belfast and London immediately following the Conference to initiate discussions with the IFI Chairman and Irish and U.K. authorities on this project. We hope that some \$25 million will be committed to this initiative over the next five years through the combined efforts of the private sector and contributors to the IFI.

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Management Intern Program

The Department of Commerce, in collaboration with the IFI, has launched the American Management and Business Internship Training (AMBIT) program. A MOU establishing the program will be signed during the Conference between representatives of the Commerce Department. AMBIT provides hands-on training assignments with U.S. firms for managers, technical and technology experts from Northern Ireland and the border counties, thereby improving business capabilities while enhancing commercial opportunities for U.S. firms both here and there. The first five AMBIT interns attended the White House Conference.

Department of Commerce Business Information Center for Northern Ireland and the Border Counties

The Commerce Department has established a full-time Foreign Commercial Service assistant in the U.S. Consulate General in Belfast. This Commercial Assistant will provide on-the-ground assistance for U.S. firms seeking to develop or expand business relationships in the region.

The Department also has established a Northern Ireland/Border County Business Information Center (NIBC) to encourage greater trade and investment between U.S. companies and the region. The NIBC flash-fax is a 24-hour automated fax delivery system that provides quick-access to commercial information and can be reached on 202-501-7489.

Science and Technology Cooperation

U.S. and Northern Ireland officials have increased cooperation in the science and technology area with the aim of establishing in Northern Ireland a Manufacturing Technology Partnership, networking industry-university cooperative research centers in Northern Ireland and the U.S., and setting up technology internships. This enhanced cooperation will encourage and facilitate mutually beneficial use of technology for economic development. We are also working to increase cooperation in science and technology with Ireland.

Through the United States' annual Contribution to the International Fund for Ireland, new projects are currently being designed to support the area of science and technology. Three new Technology Innovation Centers totaling \$3 million will be funded this year to meet the needs of industry in key technology areas in Northern Ireland and the border counties. The proposals cover areas such as engineering, value-added food production, environmental technologies and software engineering.

U.S. Trade and Development Agency

TDA sent a technical team to the region earlier this year which identified several opportunities for U.S. firms in the transportation and environment sectors in Northern Ireland and the border counties. TDA has published the team's findings and made them available to business participants at the Conference.

United States Information Agency Programs

USIA has almost doubled its number of international Visitor program participants from Northern Ireland and has also facilitated a number of significant Voluntary Visitor programs related to the peace process. USIA has notified Congress of its intent to award a grant of \$123,420 to Fordham University School of Law for an exchange project on conflict resolution to be implemented by Fordham in collaboration with the Centre for the Study of Conflict at the University of Ulster. USIS London is also providing a \$10,000 grant to provide for six American experts to participate in a June conference in Belfast organized by the Foundation for a Civil Society in collaboration with the University of Ulster Initiative on Conflict Resolution and Ethnicity.

A full-time USIS national position has been created at the U.S. Consulate General in Belfast to help manage this expanded program. The President has instructed USIA to continue to identify additional areas for increased activity including academic and other exchange programs which underpin the peace process, cultural programs, and media support for U.S. official delegations.

The Export-Import Bank of the United States

Ex-Im financing assistance for U.S. exports to the public and private sectors in Ireland and Northern Ireland is available, without restriction, under all Ex-Im Bank loan, guarantee, and insurance programs. Further information is available at the Conference or by calling 1-800-565-EXIM.

USAID

AID's Assistant Administrator for Europe and the NIS led a USAID team to Northern Ireland and the border counties in December 1994 to assess International Fund for Ireland programs. The report from that mission concluded that IFI is playing a positive role in the peace process; copies of the report are available from USAID.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

The Department of Agriculture has organized three exchanges and one workshop involving U.S. specialists working with Northern Ireland and border counties counterparts on issues of mutual concern including rural development, food safety, rural environment and energy production from agricultural biomass and wastes. We are also working to conclude a Memorandum of Understanding for Agricultural Cooperation with Ireland.

Tourism Cooperation

The Department of Commerce's U.S. Travel and Tourism Administration (USTTA) has strengthened a working relationship with tourism officials in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland through the signing of a Tourism Communique underscoring cooperative efforts in tourism services, marketing and promotion. Some specific areas of focus will be the development of initiatives to help stimulate private sector investment in tourism development and public-private partnerships, cooperation in the education and training of

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tourism industry employees through exchange arrangements through the public and private sector and the academic community, and increased cooperation in the area of standards and definitions for measuring flows of travel and tourism. The strengthened cooperation is in recognition of the positive force of tourism in furthering the peace process through increased mutual understanding, improved quality of life and the economic growth prospects for private investment and infrastructure development in creating jobs for the United States, Ireland and Northern Ireland.

SBA

The Small Business Administration has established a pilot program with SBA client companies seeking strategic alliances with Irish and Northern Irish firms. A meeting was held the week of the Conference with representatives from Northern Ireland and the Republic and SBA Regional Administrators from Boston, New York and Philadelphia to discuss and exchange company names for possible alliances.

National Endowment for Democracy

The National Endowment for Democracy is a Congressionally-funded organization which provides grants for programs which foster the development of political parties and other democratic civic associations and groups in order to strengthen democracy overseas. In Northern Ireland the NED is funding a program by the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI). Under this program, NDI held a successful party training program in September 1994. A series of 10-12 focus groups are planned for June 1995 to demonstrate how survey research can be used by political parties. NDI anticipates a second multi-party training seminar in September 1995. Additionally NED is providing funding for the June 1995 conference in Belfast organized by the Foundation for a Civil Society and the University of Ulster.

OPIC

OPIC programs became available in Northern Ireland and affected areas of the Republic under the Anglo-Irish Agreement Support Act of 1986. OPIC programs are now available in all of Ireland under the Jobs Through Trade Expansion Act of 1994. OPIC encourages U.S. businesses to invest in developing countries and emerging market economies, creating U.S. jobs and exports and promoting economic growth at home and abroad. OPIC programs include medium to long-term financing for sound overseas investment projects and investment insurance.

Follow-on Trade and Investment Missions

Senator Mitchell will lead a mission to the region in July 1995 to demonstrate American interest in the economic advancement of Northern Ireland and the border counties. In addition, the Department of Commerce will poll the White House Conference attendees to develop a program of sectoral trade and investment missions to the region. These missions will commence as soon as practical, with the aim of concluding three by year end. Commerce Assistant Secretary Meissner will visit the region immediately following the Conference to

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debrief government and business officials on Conference results and to lay the groundwork for the sectoral missions.

In the United States, Grand Rapids, Michigan will be the first Commerce Department District Office to hold a Northern Ireland seminar in the aftermath of the White House Conference. The Grand Rapids seminar is scheduled for September 1995.

(End transcript)