

## THE WHITE HOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

WASHINGTON

## MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ronald Reagan  
 Irish Prime Minister Garrett FitzGerald  
 Irish Ambassador Tadhg O'Sullivan

DATE, TIME March 17, 1983, 2:25 p.m.  
 AND PLACE: Irish Embassy

Amb. O'Sullivan: I have the President of the United States Mr. Ronald Reagan with me, who would like to say a few words to you.

President Reagan: Mr. Prime Minister.

Prime Minister FitzGerald: Mr. President, it is an honor for you to ring me on this St. Patrick's Day. I appreciate it greatly, and all our people do.

President Reagan: Well I just called to wish you a most happy St. Patrick's Day and to tell you how pleased we are that Foreign Minister Barry has been able to visit us here. We've lunched, and we're now gathered here at the Embassy for a reception and I wanted to take this opportunity to speak to you of my own personal interests in the efforts that you are undertaking to achieve reconciliation between the two Irish communities. You can count on me to do whatever we can to support that effort. Our ambassador, Peter Dailey, keeps me up to date on your thinking, so I hope you will stay in close touch with him.

Prime Minister FitzGerald: Yes.

President Reagan: I've issued a statement today which emphasizes the policy themes which I've expressed in previous St. Patrick's Day statements. I hope it will remind our own citizens here that we are determined to end any American link with the violence and that only a democratic approach supported by both Irish traditions can work. Vice President Bush and my advisor Bill Clark have both told me of their high personal regard for you and I hope that one of these days that you and I will be able to get together.

Prime Minister FitzGerald: I hope so. Maybe here in Ireland before long.

President Reagan: Well, I would look forward to a visit there. I hope that you and Mrs. FitzGerald and all the people have as enjoyable a day as we are having here.

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Prime Minister FitzGerald: Thank you very much indeed, Mr. President. I want to thank you for what you said about your support for our efforts to reconcile the two traditions in Ireland. This was a theme which was agreed upon by Prime Minister Thatcher and myself some 15 months ago when we met in London. It is an objective that all of us must have to achieve this peacefully, democratically. I might mention to you that as a step in that direction we recently established a forum for political parties on this island which reject violence-they must have nothing to do with any party that doesn't reject violence-come together and see what kind of paths to the future we might be able to suggest that would Xguarantee the identity and the rights of both traditions in this country and offer the possibility of some way out of the present violence and deadlock. And we will be grateful for your support in this and in the other efforts you are making and we know we have that support and your statement shall be heartening and encouraging to us. We are very heartened and encouraged if it were backed up by your coming here in person and I hope you may be able to do that before very long.

President Reagan: Well, we shall retain our good relationship and shall cooperate with you. Mr. Prime Minister, I think something is happening to our connection. You've begun to fade. I don't know whether you are hearing me now but you're beginning to fade and I'm having difficulty hearing you.

Prime Minister FitzGerald: I can hear you alright, but I'm sorry that it's not coming through the other way. Even in these days, we get these difficulties.

President Reagan: That was a little better.

Prime Minister FitzGerald: Well, thank you again for your call and thank you very much for coming to the Embassy again.

President Reagan: It's a great pleasure and on this particular day, especially. And again my regards to you and Mrs. FitzGerald.

Prime Minister FitzGerald: And to you and Mrs. Reagan. Thank you again, Mr. President.

President Reagan: Thank you. Goodbye.

Prime Minister FitzGerald: Goodbye.