

The original documents are located in Box 25, “3/17/76 - Remarks Upon the Arrival of Prime Minister and Mrs. Cosgrave of Ireland” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECHES

REMARKS OF PRESIDENT FORD ON
ARRIVAL OF IRISH PRIME MINISTER
COSGRAVE, MARCH 17, 1976

- 1 -

MR. PRIME MINISTER:

IT IS A PARTICULAR HONOR AND PLEASURE TO
WELCOME YOU ON THIS VERY SPECIAL DAY WHEN THE
AMERICAN SPIRIT AND THE IRISH SPIRIT ARE IN SUCH
CLOSE HARMONY.

- 2 -

I WELCOME YOU NOT ONLY AS PRIME MINISTER
OF IRELAND BUT AS A KINSMAN -- VERY DISTANT IN
GENEALOGY, BUT VERY CLOSE IN AFFINITY.

- 3 -

MY MOTHER PROUDLY TOLD ME THAT I AM PARTIALLY
IRISH IN HERITAGE. AND I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT I AM
FULLY IRISH IN SPIRIT.

YOUR VISIT SYMBOLIZES THE WARM FRIENDSHIP AND
EXCELLENT RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES.

- 4 -

WE HAVE JOINED TO FACE THE GREAT CHALLENGES
OF OUR TIME -- TO ENSURE PEACE, PROSPERITY, AND
LIBERTY FOR OUR PEOPLES.

- 5 -

MR. PRIME MINISTER, I CONVEY THE
APPRECIATION OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO THE PEOPLE OF
IRELAND FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN OUR BICENTENNIAL.

THROUGHOUT OUR HISTORY -- BEGINNING WITH THE MANY
IRISH-AMERICANS WHO FOUGHT FOR FREEDOM IN 1776 AND THE ELEVEN
WHO SIGNED THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, / MEN AND WOMEN
FROM YOUR COUNTRY HAVE BROUGHT IRISH COURAGE, IRISH ENERGY,
IRISH STRENGTH, IRISH DEVOTION, AND IRISH GENIUS TO THE
UNITED STATES●

IN ADDITION TO THE BONDS OF HISTORY AND
FAMILY, OUR NATIONS SHARE A DEEP DEVOTION TO
INDEPENDENCE, DEMOCRACY, RELIGIOUS LIBERTY, AND
INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM●

- 8 -

IRELAND, WHICH BECAME A FREE NATION
ONLY IN THIS CENTURY, IS PART OF THE NEW/AS WELL
AS THE OLD.

- 9 -

YOU HAVE THE CONFIDENCE OF MANY OF THE
WORLD'S NEW AND DEVELOPING NATIONS WHICH, LIKE
IRELAND, HAVE GAINED INDEPENDENCE IN OUR LIFETIME.

- 10 -

YOU ALSO HAVE THE MATURE VALUES AND
CULTURE OF AN ANCIENT CIVILIZATION WHICH STARTED
BEFORE HISTORY BOOKS WERE WRITTEN●

- 11 -

THE PROBLEMS CONFRONTING THE ENTIRE
WORLD -- THE ATTAINMENT OF PEACE AND SECURITY, OF
JUSTICE AND HUMAN DIGNITY -- MUST BE MET BY NATIONS
WORKING TOGETHER●

ONLY BY COOPERATION CAN THE COUNTRIES
OF THE WORLD CONFRONT THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE
NEW AGE.

THROUGH YOUR EFFECTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO
THE UNITED NATIONS -- ESPECIALLY TO UNITED NATIONS
PEACEKEEPING FORCES -- IRELAND HAS SHOWN PROFOUND
APPRECIATION OF HUMANITY'S INTERDEPENDENCE.

- 14 -

AS A MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY,
IRELAND CREATIVELY FOSTERED RELATIONS BETWEEN THE
COMMUNITY AND THE UNITED STATES DURING THE IRISH
PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY●

- 15 -

JUST AS WE VALUE IRELAND'S CONSTRUCTIVE
AND DISTINGUISHED ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, WE
GREATLY APPRECIATE OUR OWN TIES WITH YOUR COUNTRY,
MR. PRIME MINISTER●

- 16 -

WE CHERISH OUR CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATIONS AND THE STEADY EXPANSION OF MUTUALLY -
BENEFICIAL TRADE. OUR ECONOMIC COOPERATION IS
INCREASING AND AMERICAN INVESTMENT IN IRELAND IS
SUBSTANTIAL AND GROWING.

- 17 -

WE MEET TODAY TO HONOR OUR LONG AND
MUTUAL TRADITION OF IRISH-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP AND
TO BUILD UPON IT FOR THE FUTURE. I LOOK FORWARD
TO OUR DISCUSSIONS. AND I AM DELIGHTED TO
WELCOME YOU ON THIS MAGIC DAY.

MR. PRIME MINISTER, THE TOP OF THE
DAY TO YOU, / TO MRS. COSGRAVE, / TO ALL OF YOUR
PARTY / AND TO ALL THE IRISH EVERYWHERE.

END OF TEXT