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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS:	President Ford Amb. Walter J. P. Curley, Jr., U. S. Ambassador to Eire Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
DATE AND TIME:	Tuesday September 2, 1975 12:15 p.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office The White House

The President: This is a big day in Ireland.

<u>Amb. Curley:</u> This is the day of deValera's funeral. You have sent an impressive delegation.

The President: Will it be a big funeral?

Amb. Curley: Yes. Although the delegation will be back tonight.

The President: When did they go?

Amb. Curley: The 15th.

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The President: Are you a relative of the Boston Curley?

Amb. Curley: No, I can't claim that.

<u>The President:</u> You are from Yale?

[Some Yale small talk, and discussion of James Whitmore and his Truman show.]

Amb. Curley: I will miss my partner -- a friend of yours -- Ben Schmidt.

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The President: Yes. I have skied with him at Vail. He has done great work on that cancer program. Has he gotten involved in New York's financial problems?

Amb. Curley: He was asked but had too many other things.

<u>The President</u>: I am sure you know how important we consider our relations with Ireland, and I am sure that State has told you the problems of North Ireland and how we try to stay out of it. Does anyone have the answer to it?

<u>Amb. Curley</u>: No, but it is not for lack of trying. I heard that all the men who are caught in those various clashes are unemployed. Maybe economic betterment is the solution.

<u>The President:</u> I read in the paper that the IRA has stolen weapons from our military. Is that true?

<u>Scowcroft:</u> Yes. Most of the stealing is from the National Guard or Reserve armories. But there have been several cases of substantial gun running.

<u>The President:</u> I want to wish you every success and I know you will be an outstanding representative of the U.S.

Amb. Curley: Thank you very much for your confidence.

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