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Presidential Remarks: Statement on  
New Initiatives in Support of  
Peace in Northern Ireland,  
May 7 98

POINTS TO BE MADE FOR MEETING WITH  
WAVE CENTER GROUP

- 98 MAY 7 AM 11:00
- WANT TO THANK AND COMMEND YOU FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE TO BRING HEALING AND RECONCILIATION.
  - WAVE CENTER PROVES HATRED CAN BE OVERCOME BY HOPE, DIVISION CAN GIVE WAY TO UNITY, AS VICTIMS OF NORTHERN IRELAND'S TRAGIC PAST WORK TOGETHER FOR BRIGHTER FUTURE.
  - ALL PARTIES MUST RENOUNCE VIOLENCE. THE PEACE AGREEMENT CAN MAKE A DECISIVE BREAK WITH THE PAST.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

5-7-98

- WE WILL DO OUR PART TO HELP YOU REALIZE CONCRETE BENEFITS OF PEACE -- INCLUDING NEW INITIATIVES WE ARE ANNOUNCING TODAY.
- I ALSO WANT TO PAY TRIBUTE TO WOMEN OF NORTHERN IRELAND -- WIVES, MOTHERS, DAUGHTERS WHO HAVE BORNE SO MUCH OF THE EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL PAIN OF THE VIOLENCE.
- FIRST LADY HAS TOLD ME OF HER MEETINGS WITH SOME OF THEM WHO NOW ARE POLITICAL LEADERS. KNOW ALL OF YOU HERE HAVE SUFFERED DEEPLY. MAKES YOUR COMMITMENT TO PEACE ALL THE MORE INSPIRING.

- THE FIRST LADY WILL PARTICIPATE IN A VITAL VOICES CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN BELFAST IN EARLY FALL, WITH CO-SPONSORSHIP OF U.S. AND REGIONAL PARTNERS. CONFERENCE WILL SUPPORT WOMEN'S ROLES IN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL LIFE OF THEIR SOCIETY.
  - HOPE WE CAN CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER TO FOSTER RECONCILIATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND; HELP ITS PEOPLE BUILD NEW AGE OF PEACE AND REALIZE THEIR GOD-GIVEN POTENTIAL.
-

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON  
May 7, 1998

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MEETING WITH  
WAVE CENTER REPRESENTATIVES

DATE: May 7, 1998  
LOCATION: Oval Office  
TIME: 1:30-1:45 p.m.

EO 11652 MAY 7 1998

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER 

I. PURPOSE

To use meeting with representatives of the WAVE Center, a Northern Ireland victims support group, to announce initiatives to support implementation of the April 10 peace accord.

II. BACKGROUND

**WAVE Center.** Ten representatives of a Northern Ireland victims' support group, the WAVE Center, are visiting the United States for training at Eastern Mennonite University in trauma and restorative justice. WAVE was founded in 1991 to provide counseling and support to women widowed by violence in Northern Ireland, expanding their work to include children and adults affected by the violence.

The ten here today symbolize Northern Ireland's hope for peace -- the legacy of the past committed to a different and better future. Half of the group is Protestant and half Catholic. They represent both traditions and the full range of the victims of political violence: widows, mothers whose boys were murdered (one abducted by the IRA and never found), a Methodist minister who lost his father, and a woman police officer wounded in the line of duty.

Your objective in meeting with this group is to demonstrate America's support for grass roots community reconciliation efforts, as well as your conviction that the people of Northern Ireland have reached the moment to put an end to the violence.

**American Peace Support Package.** As tangible evidence of American commitment to peace implementation, you will announce a number of initiatives during your meeting, including ones for community education (supporting the new Belfast Springvale Campus financially and with USIA programs), jobs (Secretary Daley mission), the First Lady's Vital Voices Conference and funding for helping the new members of the Northern Ireland assembly begin their organizational work. Your Special Economic Advisor, Jim Lyons, will be present at this meeting. A fact sheet is at Tab B.

### III. PARTICIPANTS

#### Waves Group

<b>Sandra Peake</b>	WAVE Center Coordinator
<b>Janet McConnell</b>	Outreach worker, husband killed in '93
<b>Margaret McKinney</b>	son abducted 20 years ago on May 20, presumed killed by IRA (body not recovered)
<b>David Clements</b>	Methodist minister, police officer father killed eight years ago
<b>Moira Kerr</b>	husband killed ten years ago
<b>Hazel McCready</b>	seriously wounded while a police officer
<b>Betty Devlin</b>	son killed two years ago
<b>Jean Caldwell</b>	husband killed five years ago
<b>Maria McShane</b>	son killed four years ago
<b>Margaret Cameron</b>	husband killed four years ago

### IV. PRESS PLAN

TBD

### V. SEQUENCE

TBD

#### Attachments

Tab A Points to be Made  
 Tab B Background Paper on White House Peace  
 Implementation Initiatives

POINTS TO BE MADE FOR MEETING WITH  
WAVE CENTER GROUP

- Want to thank and commend you for all you have done to bring healing and reconciliation.
- WAVE Center proves hatred can be overcome by hope, division can give way to unity, as victims of Northern Ireland's tragic past work together for brighter future.
- All parties must renounce violence. The peace agreement can make a decisive break with the past.
- We will do our part to help you realize concrete benefits of peace -- including new initiatives we are announcing today.
- I also want to pay tribute to women of Northern Ireland -- wives, mothers, daughters who have borne so much of the emotional and physical pain of the violence.
- First Lady has told me of her meetings with some of them who now are political leaders. Know all of you here have suffered deeply. Makes your commitment to peace all the more inspiring.
- The First Lady will participate in a Vital Voices conference to be held in Belfast in early fall, with co-sponsorship of U.S. and regional partners. Conference will support women's roles in economic and political life of their society.
- Hope we can continue to work together to foster reconciliation in Northern Ireland; help its people build new age of peace and realize their God-given potential.

**BACKGROUND PAPER:  
WHITE HOUSE PEACE IMPLEMENTATION INITIATIVES**

**Springvale Campus.** The British Government announced last month that it was going ahead with a project to construct a branch of the University of Ulster as an "educational village" on the Catholic side of the so-called peace line dividing nationalist and protestant communities. At your instruction, Jim Lyons will seek International Fund for Ireland approval to increase funding to support the completion of this project. We will seek additional funding from Congress if it becomes necessary to increase our contribution to the IFI. The current FY99 request is \$19.6 million. The IFI has already pledged \$8 million to this project. An additional amount is necessary to plug a funding shortfall. To complement this commitment, USIA will begin establishing new institutional relationships between Springvale and U.S. universities, in addition to targeting Fulbright and other exchange programs to benefit the new Campus.

**Democracy/institution building.** The State Department/AID will provide funding from Office of Transitional Issues (OTI) to assist the political parties as they begin work on the Northern Ireland Assembly, most likely in the form of grants to NGOs to conduct visits and programs. Additionally, a project is being submitted to Boston College for funding under its USIA grant to pay for educational travel for newly elected Assembly members, similar to what the JFK School of Government does for new members of Congress.

**Daley Trade Mission.** Secretary Daley will lead a delegation of 15 U.S. business leaders to Belfast, Derry and Sligo from June 7-11. They represent companies cutting across the aerospace, health, environmental and information technology sectors. The goal is to promote business ventures leading to job creation and economic growth for the region.

**Worktrain program and Philadelphia Jobs Initiative.** USIA is collaborating with the United Kingdom to fund the participation of representatives from the Philadelphia Jobs Initiative to meet with counterparts from a Northern Ireland "welfare-to-work" initiative, Worktrain. USIA supported the initial visit to Worktrain (Ballymena and Belfast, NI). They seek to identify best practices and will examine transportable innovations in training, support for job seekers and bench marking of workforce development systems. Ballymena town council, a protestant majority area, handed Ian Paisley a set back in voting

overwhelmingly to support the April 10 agreement. You will see them for a photo op at the end of the U.S.-Summit in London.

**Women's Issues.** The State Department is working with the First Lady's office to hold a "Vital Voices" conference on women's issues in Belfast in the fall. The First Lady will participate. We are seeking to include regional institutions, such as the European Union, in conference preparation.

#### Other Initiatives under preparation

**Entrepreneurial Growth Trust (EGT).** Jim Lyons is coordinating a project to establish a special financial institution to help job creation in the areas that need them the most (hard-core nationalist and loyalist communities in Belfast and Derry). It will specialize in micro-enterprise start-up and small business expansion. The credit arm will lend on commercial terms for loans too small to interest regular banks. The training arm is "welfare-to-work," seeking to develop an entrepreneurial spirit and know-how. The next phase is to hire a project consultant to prepare a business plan. This can be announced later this summer.

**Police reform program.** Another USIA idea, to be administered by Eastern Mennonite University. Exchange program would help the RUC with diversification issues, working with the Justice Department in the fall. Could be ripe for announcement in June or July.

**Business Development Dialogue (BDD).** Commerce is seeking to establish a blue ribbon committee of U.S. business leaders to work with counterparts in NI and the border counties. Would provide on-going, high level profile for U.S. firms in Northern Ireland, increasing interest in business opportunities.

**Silicon Valley Initiative.** Jim Lyons is developing an initiative to meld a number of ideas into a coherent package tying Northern Ireland to leading edge information technology industries. Some of the elements under development include John Cullinane's proposal to make Belfast "the software support capital of the world," and John Hume's effort to link Derry to San Jose.

**U.S. Presence in Belfast.** At Jim Lyons' initiative, the State Department will assign a "peace initiatives" officer to the American Consulate in Belfast. The Consulate is also due to

move to better quarters in Belfast where it will have high visibility.

Financial Support for Northern Ireland		
<b>U.S. Programs -- IFI contributions</b>		
	FY98 -	\$19.6 million
	(FY99 request	\$19.6 million)
	1986-1998	<b><u>\$308 million</u></b>
<b>EU Support:</b>	Structural Funds 1993-98	\$1.6 billion
	(likely to end soon)	
	Peace Grants 1995-98	\$344 million
	(to continue at \$100 m/year)	
	IFI contribution 1993-98	<u>\$128 million</u>
	Total	<b><u>\$2.1 billion</u></b>