FOIA MARKER

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<th>Ireland-Bruton Press Statement 12/1/95</th>
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# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
## Clinton Library

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<td>Talking Points for Meeting with Irish Prime Minister Bruton (2 pages)</td>
<td>ca. 11/1995</td>
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<tr>
<td>001b briefing paper</td>
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**COLLECTION:**
- Clinton Presidential Records
- National Security Council
- Anthony Blinken (Speechwriting)
- OA/Box Number: 3382

**FOLDER TITLE:** Ireland-Bruton Press Statement, 12/1/95

**RESTRICTION CODES**

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Dublin, Ireland)

For Immediate Release  December 1, 1995

PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE PRESIDENT
AND PRIME MINISTER BRUTON OF IRELAND

Steps of Government Buildings
Dublin, Ireland

1:20 P.M. (L)

PRIME MINISTER BRUTON: Ladies and gentlemen, Mr. President: I'd like to welcome you warmly to Ireland to thank you for all that you have done to help bring peace to our country, to thank you for all that you are continuing to do to bring the people that live on this island closer together and improve the relations that exist between this island and its neighbors.

I'm delighted that it was possible for the British Prime Minister, John Major to whom I pay tribute here, and myself to agree on a framework for moving forward towards a settlement of the differences that have existed on this island for 300 years now, and the fact that we were able to do that on the eve of your visit is no accident. Because we both realized, both John Major and I, that the sort of support that you have been able to give, yesterday and today, to the people of this island, searching for peace, searching for reconciliation, searching to heal the wounds that have been there for so long, and looking positively to the future, we both appreciate it that your support gives them encouragement, gives us encouragement and is something for which we, from the bottom of our hearts sincerely, thank you. Mr. President

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. I'd like to begin by thanking the Prime Minister for his warm welcome and more importantly, I want to say a special word of thanks to all of the people of Ireland and the people of Northern Ireland who have shown such extraordinary warmth and generosity to Hillary and me and now our American delegation.
This has been an extraordinary experience for us, and I will never forget it. I thank the Prime Minister for what he said, but the truth is that the credit for this latest progress belongs to the Taoiseach and to Prime Minister Major. They announced this twin-track initiative to advance the peace process of Northern Ireland shortly before I arrived here. It gives the parties a chance to engage in an honest dialogue where all their views are represented and everybody's voice can be heard. And I certainly hope that it will be successful.

Let me also say, as you know, it establishes a means to address the issue of decommissioning, and I am gratified that my good friend, Senator George Mitchell is going to leave the international body to deal with that issue. He is seizing this opportunity already. He has begun to organize the effort with other members, and I expect him to be at work shortly.

Let me again say, I know that I speak for all Americans who want peace and ultimate reconciliation on this island when I say that the Taoiseach has shown great courage in the pursuit of peace and we intend to do whatever we can to help him, Prime Minister Major, Mr. Spring and all others who are working for peace to succeed.

The United States is honored to stand with those who take risks for peace, and we are doing it all across the world -- in the Middle East, in Bosnia and here. It is a difficult road to travel. It is always easier to stay in the known way and to play on the known fears. But the right thing to do is to do what is being done here, and I applaud it and I want to do everything I can to support it.

Let me also say that we had the opportunity to discuss the situation in Bosnia, and I described as best I could the terms of the peace agreement and what we intend to do in the United States with our allies to implement it in a military way, and what nonmilitary tasks have to be undertaken.

I am very hopeful that after the peace agreement is signed in Paris in just a couple of weeks, we will see a dramatic change in that war-torn land. Let me say that the kind of thing that the international community is going to have to do in Bosnia is consistent with what Ireland has done every day for nearly 40 years now.

Irish peacekeepers have helped people to live in peace from Cyprus to Somalia, to feed the hungry, to do so much that most people in the world don't even know the people of Ireland
have done. And again, I want to say on behalf of the American people, I am very, very grateful for that.

So we had a good meeting, we've got a wonderful relationship, the sun is shining, and I hope it's a good omen for peace in Northern Ireland. Thank you. (Applause.)

Q The impasse has been broken at the moment, but the roadblock is still there. Senator Mitchell's committee is going to start its work. If at the end of the day the deadlock is still there, is your government, your administration prepared to act as persuaders to get to all party talks without preconditions?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, first of all, let me say I think we ought to give these folks a chance to succeed. We shouldn't be talking about if, at the end of the day, the Prime Minister of Great Britain and the Taoiseach have announced, I think, a brilliant formulation which permits people to go forward in dealing with all of these issues without giving up any of the things they say they believe in and have to have.

I think we ought to give this process a chance to succeed. If it fails, then we'll reconnoiter and see what to do next. But I think the lesson of the last 15 months is that the people like peace, they like the absence of violence, and they want to go forward, not backward. They want to deal with the issues that are still before them. So, I'm inclined to believe it will succeed. If it doesn't, then you can ask me that question.

Q What has your visit done, in concrete terms, to change the way the United States will engage with the process? How has it affected where you go from here?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know that the visit has done anything to change, in concrete terms, the way we are engaged except, I believe, that since we have a quite a large number of members of Congress here, and quite a large number of business people here, and quite a large contingent of people in the news media here, all seeing what is going on in Northern Ireland, I think it will deepen the support of the American people for our constructive involvement, and it might well intensify the number of -- the pace at which people in the private sector are willing to make investments and try to bring the economic benefits of peace to the people there. But we are committed, we have been committed and we're going to stay committed. And we'll be there until the work is finished.
Q Mr. President, back home Republicans in Congress are expressing concern about snipers and bombs and ethnic hatreds that American forces are going to face in Bosnia. When you go to Germany tomorrow, what will you tell the American troops about the dangers they face and have you heard any estimates about the casualties that they might suffer?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, first of all, the American troops that have trained to go to Bosnia know every bit as much about the dangers they might face as I do. What I will tell them is that it is not a risk-free mission. Indeed, being in the military is not risk-free. We lose a significant number of our finest young people every year just in the training exercises because of the inherent danger of moving around and doing the things that they do in the air, on the land and at sea.

I will tell them that we have done everything we can to minimize the risks; we have guaranteed for them very robust rules of engagement so that if anyone attempts to interfere with their mission, or to take action against them, they can respond with decisive, indeed with overwhelming force and that their peace and their security, their safety, is uppermost in my mind and in the mind of their general officers who have done all the planning for this mission, but that this is a mission very much in America's interest where we can make a huge difference and stop the worst slaughter in Europe since World War II and that I'm very proud of them for doing it.

Q Mr. President, are you escalating the U.S. involvement in Bosnia even before we go there? Suddenly, 20,000 troops have become 25,000 and the cost has gone from $1.5 billion to $3 billion.

THE PRESIDENT: No, well, first of all, I don't think it's going to be at $3 billion but we -- the numbers keep getting bandied around here. Some people who count the money in Europe would be double counting it. Some of this money is going to be spent anyway. I don't think we should count as a cost of the operation in Bosnia, for example, the salary of someone who's going to get paid their salary whether they're there or not.

The 25,000, let me say -- well, I have always said we would have 20,000 people in the theatre. We have been asked how many people are necessary to support them. And we will have -- we'll have another roughly 5,000 people outside of Bosnia in support of those who are in Bosnia. But they will not be in the Bosnian theatre. There may be some extra costs associated with them that are sizeable enough, and they ought to be included in the bill that we tell Congress we expect to pay here.
But if you look at it, again I will say, this is an appropriate level of contribution. This is no more than a third -- may wind up being considerably less than a third of the total contribution depending on how many other nations participate. You heard the British Prime Minister say two days ago that he expected that Great Britain, a country with a population of roughly -- well, less than a fourth of ours, is going to send 13,000 troops to the theater. So the Europeans are going to take the major load, and we should support them.

Q    It seems that this historic trip by President Clinton to Ireland has facilitated an agreement between yourself and John Major. Is that not ominous for the future of the peace process if it takes President Clinton's arrival to produce that level of movement forward? When we get to the really serious negotiations, won't it be more difficult?

PRIME MINISTER BRUTON: I think the ingredients for the agreement have been there for quite some time. But I think it is the case that we both recognize that the President's visit to Britain and Ireland was an opportunity for both of us to launch in the best possible circumstances an initiative which we were probably going to have to agree anyway very shortly. But we were able to do it on the eve of President Clinton's visit in such a fashion as to ensure that his presence here has given it the fairest possible wind.

Q    Mr. Prime Minister, why is it necessary for the United States for the third time in this century to send troops to Europe? Why aren't the Europeans capable, in your opinion, of resolving these kinds of problems in Bosnia by themselves?

PRIME MINISTER BRUTON: I think it's important to recognize that if you have genocide of the kind that was occurring in Bosnia, that's not just a European problem, that's a problem for the world at large. It's a problem for the common civilization which we all share. It's a common problem for all of us who have democratic values -- democratic values which stem in Europe chiefly from the inspiration of the American War of Independence and the United States Declaration of Independence. Those values are universal and, therefore, there is a universal responsibility, in my view, for all of us to do whatever we can in proportion to our means to facilitate the making of peace.

It is very important also to stress that the role that the United States, the European Union, and others have played in Bosnia is one of facilitating peacemaking. The peace is not being made by the United States, no more than it is being made by
the European Union. The peace in Bosnia is being made by the people of Bosnia themselves. And that is the same situation in this country. We provide a framework; they must do the deal.

THE PRESIDENT: And I just want to mention one other thing, too. I want you to think about these points: Number one, at the end of World War II, we established NATO, recognizing that we would try to stay together dealing with common security concerns. Admittedly, at the time, we thought those concerns might play themselves out in Central Europe in the contest between what was then the Soviet Union and the Western bloc, the NATO bloc. But we understood that we had shared concerns that would manifest themselves first on the continent of Europe, but could become much more immediate for us.

Now, the NATO powers have voted among themselves to work with others through the United Nations and on our own in brokering this peace agreement and trying to implement it. This is consistent with what we have done since World War II.

The second thing I'd like to ask every American is how you would have felt -- I would like to ask every American how would you have felt when President Bush sent out the call for help in Desert Storm, which was a war, not a peacekeeping measure, if they said: You handle that; you have more money, more soldiers, more interest there; you're concerned about the oil; you waste more oil than the rest of us do; you guys handle that?

Or think about all the countries that helped us in Haiti who didn't say: I'm sorry, that's not our problem; that's your problem; you have the refugees in the United States; we don't have them; they're on your shore; they're your problem; we can't be bothered with that.

But instead, we have had dozens of countries rally to the United States to work with us in common cause when their values were violated by things that were of more immediate concern to us. That's what they did in Desert Storm. That's what they did in Haiti.

And I will say, every day -- every day -- for almost 40 years, there has been a citizen of Ireland in some distant country working for peacekeeping in places where the United States did not go. And they did not ask, what is the immediate interest of the people of Ireland in doing that.

So I think the United States has been very well-served by countries that have been willing to stand up with us, to stand up
for good things and right things that also affect our interest. And I believe we should do this now.

PRIME MINISTER BRUTON: Thank you. We must respect the timetable. I'm sorry. Thank you very much, indeed. Thank you. (Applause.)

END

1:41 P.M. (L)
I'd like to begin by thanking the people of Ireland and Northern Ireland for the extraordinary warmth and generosity they have shown Hillary and me, and our entire delegation. From the hope-filled streets of Belfast ... to the ancient walls of Derry... to this magnificent seat of democracy in Dublin, we have all been overwhelmed by a people reaching out to America in friendship. This truly has been an unforgettable visit and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

The day before we arrived, the Taoiseach [T-shuck] and Prime Minister Major announced their “Twin Track” initiative to advance the peace process in Northern Ireland. This initiative gives the parties a chance to engage in an honest dialogue in which all views are represented and all voices are heard. And it establishes a means to address the issue of decommissioning.

I expressed to the Taoiseach [T-shuck] America’s admiration for his courage in the pursuit of peace and our continued determination to help him succeed. Peace can be a difficult road to travel -- but it is the right road, and we can see that in the yearning for a just and lasting peace so visible in the faces of people throughout this land.
Ireland’s commitment to peace at home carries over to its devotion to peace abroad. Irish peacekeepers have helped people turn from conflict to cooperation all over the world. I expressed my appreciation to the Taoiseach [T-schuck] for Ireland’s efforts to end the war and ease the suffering in Bosnia.

Now, the people of Bosnia have made a commitment to peace, and the United States is determined to help them secure it. Not by sending our troops to fight a war there, but by asking them to help peace take hold so the hard work of rebuilding and reconciliation can begin.

The Taoiseach [T-shuck] and I also reviewed a number of shared concerns, including terrorism, drug trafficking and international organized crime. These forces of destruction have no respect for borders, and the Taoiseach [T-shuck] and I agreed that we must step up our joint efforts to combat them -- both bilaterally, and through the Transatlantic Initiative the United States and the European Union will pursue this weekend in Madrid.

The United States looks forward to Ireland assuming the presidency of the EU next year and asserting its role as a leader for peace and security in Europe. And we would welcome Ireland’s consideration of an even more active role in developing Europe’s post Cold War security structures, including the Partnership for Peace.
As the Taoiseach [T-shuck] and I reviewed the progress toward peace here in Ireland and around the world, we agreed that, for all the dangers and challenges of our era, we are living an extraordinary moment of hope. We can make the next century a time of infinite possibility and lasting peace. I come away from this trip convinced that Ireland will have a key role to play in showing the way -- both by its example at home and its leadership abroad.

Thank you.
DRAFT PRESS STATEMENT

PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH PM BRUTON

The Taoiseach (TEE-shock) and I have concluded warm and productive talks, stressing the close ties between our two countries. I reaffirmed my personal support for Ireland and, on behalf of the American people, assured the Taoiseach of our continuing goodwill.

Among other issues, the Taoiseach and I discussed the Northern Ireland peace process. I commended him on Ireland's determination and creativity, without which the process may never have started, and stressed the continued commitment of the United States to help in any way we can. We agreed to intensify our search for a way around the current obstacles to talks.

Although Ireland is a small country, it shoulders a significant burden in international peace efforts, especially through the commitment of its sons and daughters to UN peacekeeping missions. The Taoiseach and I discussed ways in which Ireland could build upon its honorable tradition of involvement in peacekeeping through increased cooperation with other like-minded nations. Never before has Ireland's experience and expertise in these matters been as valuable as in the new unstable post-cold war environment in which we now live. I made clear to the Taoiseach that the United States would welcome the expansion of Ireland's involvement in matters of European and world peace and security.
I also wished the Taoiseach well on Ireland’s upcoming presidency of the European Union, and assured him of the abiding American enthusiasm for the cause of European integration.
Q’s and A’s

PRESIDENT’S MEETING WITH PM BRUTON

Q. How do you feel about the failure to achieve a breakthrough in the peace process, which many had expected to occur before your visit here?

A. - Of course I would have liked to come to both Belfast and Dublin to toast the commencement of all party talks. But for any peace process to be successful, it must be based on the genuine will of the parties themselves to compromise and reach agreement. It can’t be imposed from the outside.

Q. What do you hope your visit will achieve with regard to the peace process?

A. - I hope that this visit will help focus attention on those who deserve peace—all the people of Ireland and the United Kingdom—and on those who are helping to make peace—the political leaders on the nationalist and unionist sides, as well as the Irish and British governments.

Q. What is the American role at this point in the process?

A. - Our role is threefold. First, diplomacy—we have made clear that we will support those on both sides who are willing to compromise in the name of peace. Second, modalities—we have expressed our willingness to participate in an international commission to deal with the disarmament issue, if this would be helpful. Third, economic support—there cannot be a lasting peace without economic development, and our support for the International Fund for Ireland and for increased private trade and investment in Northern Ireland and the border counties of the Republic is widely appreciated.

Q. Do you believe that decommissioning should be a precondition for all-party talks?

A. - The parties observing the cease-fire in Northern Ireland must take the next step and begin to discuss serious decommissioning of weapons. This can’t come soon enough for me and I have made clear that there must be movement on this issue. It is hard for law abiding citizens of any society to have confidence that a negotiated settlement will be permanent as long as arms unauthorized by either the British or Irish government are being held. We have said that we see merit in some version of the "twin track" proposal as a way to move forward on this issue.
Q. What is your view of Unionist proposals for an elected assembly as a way to start talks now?

A. We continue to believe there is merit in the so-called two track process as the way forward. However, there may be a way to include an election of delegates into the political negotiations track of the two track. This is something for both the British and Irish governments to explore together and with the parties.
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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor’s deed of gift.
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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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I. CONTEXT OF THE EVENT

Taoiseach ("Tee-Shock" -- Prime Minister) John Bruton will greet you at the entrance to "Government Buildings," where his offices are located, and escort you up the ceremonial staircase to his office for a private meeting. This will be followed by talks in the "Sycamore Room," a conference room set aside for meetings with heads of state and government.

II. BACKGROUND

"Government Buildings" actually refers to just one building -- a graceful domed palace opened by King George V in 1911 to serve as the Royal College of Science. As events turned out, it was to be the last great building completed by the British government in the southern part of Ireland.

While students filled its lecture halls and the work of adding wings to either side went ahead, some of the more momentous happenings in Irish history took place in the streets outside. When the north wing was completed in 1922, it was immediately occupied by the Executive Council and government departments of the newly independent Ireland. The seat of the Irish government has remained there ever since.

The College of Science was closed during the civil disturbances of the early 1920's and its students absorbed into the new University College Dublin. In 1926, its laboratories and lecture halls were taken over by the engineering school of the same university. In 1989, the last of these students moved to the main university campus elsewhere in Dublin. A major refurbishment, completed in January 1991, has created a new life for the buildings. Restored to its former glory it is a complex suitable for the government of modern Ireland.
Meeting with Irish Prime Minister Bruton (1 page)
PRESIDENT
WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
STATEMENT AT PRESS CONFERENCE WITH
TAOISEACH BRUTON
DUBLIN, IRELAND
DECEMBER 1, 1995
I’d like to begin by thanking the people of Ireland and Northern Ireland for the extraordinary warmth and generosity they have shown Hillary and me, and our entire delegation. From the hope-filled streets of Belfast ... to the ancient walls of Derry... to this magnificent seat of democracy in Dublin, we have all been overwhelmed by a people reaching out to America in friendship. This truly has been an unforgettable visit and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.
The day before we arrived, the Taoiseach [Tee-shuck] and Prime Minister Major announced their “Twin Track” initiative to advance the peace process in Northern Ireland. This initiative gives the parties a chance to engage in an honest dialogue in which all views are represented and all voices are heard. And it establishes a means to address the issue of decommissioning. It offers the parties of Northern Ireland an opening for peace. After yesterday, I know they will seize it.
I expressed to the Taoiseach America's admiration for his courage in the pursuit of peace and our continued determination to help him succeed. The extraordinary new peace I witnessed yesterday would not have been possible without the work of the Taoiseach, Prime Minister Major, the Tanaiste [Tawnish-tah] and former Prime Minister Reynolds. They have taken risks for peace. The United States is honored to stand with them.
Peace can be a difficult road to travel -- but it is the right road. And after seeing the faces and hearing the voices of Ireland, I have no doubt that this is the road being traveled.

Ireland’s commitment to peace at home carries over to its devotion to peace abroad. Irish peacekeepers have helped people turn from conflict to cooperation all over the world. From Cyprus to Somalia, Ireland’s people have kept the peace... comforted the afflicted... and fed the hungry.
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Thank you.