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NORTHERN IRELAND: ADVANCE COPIES

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TELEGRAM NUMBER 895 OF 17 MARCH

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INFO SAVING ALL CGS IN USA.

*To be aware, in view of  
Quintan tomorrow.*

*A-J-C 17/3*

MY TELNO 891: NORTHERN IRELAND:

PRESIDENT REAGAN'S ST PATRICK'S DAY STATEMENT

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT (NOW BEING RELEASED TO THE PRESS) OF PRESIDENT REAGAN'S ST PATRICK'S DAY STATEMENT WHICH STRIKES ME AS VERY SATISFACTORY FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW.

BEGINS.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY REMINDS US OF THE POWER OF JOY. IT IS A DAY WHEN SPIRITS ARE LIFTED, WHEN MILLIONS JOIN TOGETHER IN FRIENDSHIP, WHEN STRANGERS GREET EACH OTHER WITH AFFECTION.

THE SPELL CAST ON US BY A SMALL ISLAND 3,000 MILES AWAY BEGAN MORE THAN A CENTURY AGO WHEN IRISH IMMIGRANTS FIRST

~~THE SPELL CAST ON US BY A SMALL ISLAND 3,000 MILES AWAY~~  
~~BEGAN MORE THAN A CENTURY AGO WHEN IRISH IMMIGRANTS FIRST~~  
CAME TO THIS LAND -- IMMIGRANTS WHOSE SWEAT AND LABOR BUILT  
OUR ECONOMY, WHOSE HEARTS AND MINDS SHAPED OUR LITERARY AND  
INTELLECTUAL HISTORY, WHOSE SMILES AND MIRTH GAVE US THE  
GIFT OF LAUGHTER, WHOSE CONSCIENCE AND SPIRITUALITY REMINDED  
US OF THE IMPORTANCE OF RELIGIOUS FAITH IN OUR LIVES.

TODAY ALL AMERICANS -- OF IRISH DESCENT AND HONORARY IRISH  
DESCENT -- CELEBRATE ONE OF THE HAPPIEST DAYS OF THE YEAR IN  
OUR COUNTRY -- A DAY MARKED BY PEACE, FRIENDSHIP AND HARMONY.

YET TODAY OUR THOUGHTS CANNOT BE ENTIRELY JOYFUL -- WE WHO  
OWE SO MUCH TO THE QUOTE LAND ACROSS THE IRISH SEA UNQUOTE CANNOT  
HELP BUT REFLECT ON A TRAGIC IRONY: NORTHERN IRELAND IS TROUBLED  
BY CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE. WE IN AMERICA WHO OWE SO MUCH TO  
OUR KINSMEN OF BOTH IRISH AND BRITISH HERITAGE, PROTESTANT  
AND CATHOLIC ALIKE, CAN NEVER BE INDIFFERENT TO THE PROBLEM  
OF VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND. THAT IS WHY WE SEEK TO  
CONTRIBUTE IN ANY WAY WE CAN TO A LASTING, PEACEFUL SOLUTION  
THAT WILL BRING TO AN END YEARS OF CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE.

THE TWELVE MONTHS SINCE LAST ST. PATRICK'S DAY HAVE BROUGHT  
BOTH HOPE AND SORROW IN NORTHERN IRELAND. THERE HAVE BEEN  
GROUNDS FOR OPTIMISM FOR THE FUTURE. THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE  
CONTINUED ITS GENERALLY DOWNWARD TREND. IN THIS COUNTRY,  
U.S. LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES CONFISCATED A LARGE NUMBER  
OF WEAPONS INTENDED FOR TERRORIST HANDS IN IRELAND. PERHAPS  
MOST IMPORTANT DESPITE THE SORROWS OF THE PAST YEAR, THERE  
ARE SIGNS THAT THE CLIMATE HAS IMPROVED FOR MODERATE POLITICAL  
SOLUTIONS.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO STAND BY OUR POLICY -- TO URGE THE  
PARTIES IN NORTHERN IRELAND TO COME TOGETHER FOR A JUST  
SOLUTION AND TO CONDEMN ALL ACTS OF TERRORISM AND VIOLENCE.

WE BELIEVE A LASTING SOLUTION CAN BE FOUND ONLY THROUGH A  
PROCESS OF RECONCILIATION BETWEEN THE TWO TRADITIONS IN  
NORTHERN IRELAND AND BETWEEN BRITAIN AND IRELAND. WE ENCOURAGE  
AND APPLAUD SUCH EFFORTS. WE PARTICULARLY WELCOME THE BRITISH  
AND IRISH GOVERNMENTS' WIDENING OF THE FRAMEWORK OF  
THEIR COOPERATION TO THIS END.

BUT AS MUCH AS WE WISH FOR A JUST AND PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT,  
WE IN THE UNITED STATES CANNOT CHART A COURSE FOR THE PEOPLE  
OF NORTHERN IRELAND. IF SOLUTIONS ARE TO ENDURE, THEY MUST

THEIR COOPERATION TO THIS END.  
~~BUT AS MUCH AS WE WISH FOR A JUST AND PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT,  
WE IN THE UNITED STATES CANNOT CHART A COURSE FOR THE PEOPLE  
OF NORTHERN IRELAND. IF SOLUTIONS ARE TO ENDURE, THEY MUST  
COME FROM THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES.~~

WE STAND UNALTERABLY OPPOSED TO THE FORCES OF VIOLENCE AND  
DISCORD IN NORTHERN IRELAND, WHICH OBSTRUCT THE PROCESS OF  
RECONCILIATION SO NECESSARY TO PEACE. THOSE WHO ADVOCATE  
VIOLENCE OR ENGAGE IN TERRORISM WILL HAVE NO WELCOME IN THE  
UNITED STATES.

LAST YEAR, I CALLED ON ALL AMERICANS TO QUESTION CLOSELY ANY  
APPEAL FOR FINANCIAL OR OTHER AID FROM GROUPS INVOLVED IN  
THE NORTHERN IRELAND CONFLICT TO ENSURE THAT CONTRIBUTIONS  
DO NOT END UP IN THE HANDS OF THOSE WHO PERPETUATE VIOLENCE,  
EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY. TODAY, I RENEW THAT REQUEST.  
CONTINUED VIOLENCE, EVEN BY A MISGUIDED FEW, CAN ONLY  
FRUSTRATE THE DESIRE FOR PEACE OF THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY  
OF THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY OF NORTHERN IRELAND.

AS WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE, WE CAN BE PROUD THAT THE UNITED  
STATES ALREADY IS MAKING AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TOWARD  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS IN NORTHERN IRELAND. WE ARE  
PROUD OF OUR ROLE IN STRENGTHENING THE IRISH ECONOMY. THERE  
ARE 37 AMERICAN COMPANIES WITH MANUFACTURING PLANTS IN  
NORTHERN IRELAND, REPRESENTING MORE THAN A BILLION DOLLARS  
OF INVESTMENT, WITH A POTENTIAL EMPLOYMENT OF ABOUT 25,000  
PEOPLE, A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THE MANUFACTURING WORK  
FORCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND. THIS INVESTMENT BY AMERICAN  
INDUSTRY SHOWS A CLEAR COMMITMENT TO A FUTURE BASED ON PEACE  
AND WELL-BEING FOR THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

THIS ADMINISTRATION WILL MAINTAIN THE U.S. COMMITMENT, IN  
THE CONTEXT OF A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND, TO  
FACILITATE GROWTH OF ADDITIONAL JOB-CREATING INVESTMENT --  
INVESTMENT THAT WILL BENEFIT ALL THE PEOPLE IN NORTHERN  
IRELAND. IN THE MEANTIME, WE ENCOURAGE THE AMERICAN PRIVATE  
SECTOR TO CONTINUE TO ASSIST IN CREATING MORE JOB OPPORTUNITIES  
IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

IN AFFIRMING THESE PRINCIPLES OF OUR POLICY TOWARD NORTHERN  
IRELAND, I WISH TO ADD MY APPRECIATION AND SUPPORT FOR THE  
MANY TRUE FRIENDS OF IRELAND IN THIS COUNTRY, IN THE CONGRESS  
AND AMONG THE PUBLIC, WHO CONTINUE TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST  
VIOLENCE AND IN SUPPORT OF PEACE AND RECONCILIATION. THEIR

SECTOR TO CONTINUE TO ASSIST IN CREATING MORE JOB OPPORTUNITIES  
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VIOLENCE AND IN SUPPORT OF PEACE AND RECONCILIATION. THEIR  
EFFORTS ARE AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE  
CAUSE OF PEACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND, AND I JOIN THEM IN THE  
PRAYER THAT OUR HOPES WILL SOON BE REALIZED. IT IS BY  
ASSISTING IN COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT, COMBATING TERRORISM AND  
ENCOURAGING THE PROCESS OF PEACEFUL RECONCILIATION THAT WE  
IN AMERICA CAN DO OUR PART TO BRING PEACE TO NORTHERN IRELAND.

HENDERSON

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