

*Administration of Donald J. Trump, 2025*

**Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Prime Minister Micheál Martin of Ireland and an Exchange With Reporters**

*March 12, 2025*

*President Trump.* Thank you very much. It's a great honor to have Micheál Martin, Taoiseach. Ireland, it's a special place, and he's a very special guy. He did it the hard way also. He served and then took a little time off, and then he served again. I've heard about that. That happens on occasion. [*Laughter*] And he's done very well, and we knew each other from a long time ago. But it's a great honor to have you in the Oval Office and have you at the White House.

We have tremendous business relationships with Ireland, and that will only get stronger. The relationship we have personally and every other way is very, very strong and very, very good.

So I just want to welcome you to Washington, DC, and to our country. And thank you very much.

*Prime Minister Martin.* May I thank you, President? It's a great honor for me to be here to celebrate St. Patrick's with you.

*President Trump.* Right.

*Prime Minister Martin.* And I thank you for your hospitality and the warmth of your reception. And I commend you, in terms of the work that you're doing, particularly in terms of the pursuit of peace, which we——

*President Trump.* Right.

*Prime Minister Martin.* ——discussed earlier. I think that's going well.

And you really have—in the first, sort of, hundred days of this Government, you've done some extraordinary things very quickly.

*President Trump.* Thank you.

*Prime Minister Martin.* And everybody is watching in that respect.

*President Trump.* Thank you.

*Prime Minister Martin.* So, pleasure to be here. It's an honor to be here.

*President Trump.* Well, it's a great honor to have you and special people, very special people. I know a lot of Irish. And growing up in New York——

*Prime Minister Martin.* Of course.

*President Trump.* ——I know a couple of your people that used to live in that beautiful Ireland, and now they're here. But they love your country very much. You know this. They have a great——

*Prime Minister Martin.* Absolutely.

*President Trump.* ——they have a great feeling toward your country.

*Prime Minister Martin.* They have, and they—a lot come back for holidays——

*President Trump.* Yes, they come back.

*Prime Minister Martin.* ——and for stuff like that and checking out their family——

*President Trump.* They come back. Yes.

*Prime Minister Martin.* —ancestry and things like that. You know?

*President Trump.* Great, fantastic people.

*Prime Minister Martin.* Some go to Doonbeg as well. Yes. [*Laughter*]

*President Trump.* Doonbeg. We love Doonbeg. I love them. I don't know if I'll ever see it again. Maybe I won't.

*Prime Minister Martin.* Well, we would like you to——

*President Trump.* I think I will.

*Prime Minister Martin.* —come back and see again.

*President Trump.* We'll get there.

*Prime Minister Martin.* Yes, yes.

*President Trump.* We're going to get there. It's a beautiful place, wonderful place.

Any questions, please?

[*At this point, several reporters began asking questions at once.*]

Yes, please.

#### *Ireland-U.S. Trade/European Union/Tariffs*

*Q.* How worried—President Trump, how worried are you about the counter tariffs from the EU, which were announced yesterday?

And also, how worried should Ireland be, given the fact that it has a massive trade surplus with the U.S., over \$50 billion? Micheál Martin may be quite nervous about what you're going to tell him today.

*President Trump.* Well, I don't think he looks nervous to me. [*Laughter*] And if he was nervous, he wouldn't show it.

No, I—we do have a massive deficit with Ireland, because Ireland was very smart. They took our pharmaceutical companies away from Presidents that didn't know what they were doing. And you know, it's too bad that happened. It's a tremendous job.

I give—look, the Irish are smart. You're smart people, and you took our pharmaceutical companies and other companies. But you know, through taxation and proper taxation, they made it very, very good for companies to move over there. And we had Presidents and people that were involved in this that had no idea what they were doing, and they lost big segments of our economy.

The European Union treats us very badly. They have for years. I saw that. I had it out with them in my first term. Did well, but we had to solve other problems. And we did, but the European Union has been very tough. And it's our turn too. You know, we get a turn at that also, but they have not been fair.

They sue our companies and win massive amounts of money. They sued Apple, won \$17 billion, and they used that for other reasons, I guess, or to run the European Union.

So I'm not knocking it. They're doing what they should be doing, perhaps, for the European Union, but it does create ill will.

And, as you know, we're going to be doing reciprocal tariffs. So whatever they charge us, we're charging them. Nobody can complain about that. Whatever it is—it doesn't even matter what it is—if they charge us 25 or 20 percent or 10 percent or 2 percent or 200 percent, then that's what we're charging them. And so I don't know why people get upset about that, because there's nothing more fair than that.

And we had a problem with Ontario, and they dropped that. When I let them know what we were going to be doing, they dropped it immediately. So I'm glad, because electricity—you shouldn't be playing with electricity. It affects people's lives. Their—actually, their life. I mean, it can affect—depending on weather, it could affect their life. So we can't do that.

And it doesn't make sense that our country allows electricity to be made in another country and sold into us. Who did that deal for the United States? Okay? I looked at that long ago, and I said, "That's not something that's very smart."

So we've had a lot of bad trade policies. And yet we're doing very well right now. But we're doing well because I won the election. If I didn't win the election, you would have had a very bad period.

I think a lot of the stock market going down was because of a really bad 4 years that we had. When you look at inflation and all of the other problems that were—I mean, wars and inflation and so many other problems. But we're going to have very good years. We're going to have—we had—I don't know if you saw a little thing like the cost of eggs—little to you, but big to people out there—down almost 30 percent. In the last few days, we got it down. We did a lot of things. We have a great Secretary of Agriculture, and we did a lot of things that got the cost of eggs down very substantially, and so many other things.

A very big thing that I'm very happy with is oil is down to \$65 a barrel, and that's faster than I would have—[inaudible]. We put on the gas. We stepped on the gas in order to get oil and what's happening. So we're getting that down.

And when energy comes down, prices are going to be coming down with it. So, in a very short period of time, we've done a very good job. And I think that the tariffs that we're talking about—and, again, reciprocal—I think that the tariffs—there are some cases where they're a little beyond reciprocal, because, you know, we've been abused for a long time as a country. We have been abused, really, for a long time, and we will be abused no longer.

Okay.

*Q.* Are you going to retaliate to the EU—

#### *Federal Workforce Reduction Efforts/Department of Education*

*Q.* On the Department of Education, sir. Would you describe for us, is this meeting your vision by cutting about half the workforce? And what responsibility do you feel to the civil servants who have now lost their jobs? Many of them worked at the Department of Education—

*President Trump.* Yes.

*Q.* —during your first term.

*President Trump.* Sure, I do—I feel very badly, and—but many of them don't work at all. Many of them never showed up to work. Many of them—

*Q.* They had—they had permission to work—

*President Trump.* Many of them—

*Q.* —from home, sir.

*President Trump.* —never showed up to work, Kelly [Kelly O'Donnell, NBC News], and—unfortunately—and that's not good.

And when we cut—you know, we go—and that's what—I had a number of meetings with a lot of people over the last couple of months. When we cut, we want to cut, but we want to cut the people that aren't working or doing—not doing a good job. We're keeping the best people.

And Linda McMahon is a real professional, a very—actually, a very sophisticated businessperson, and she cut a large number, but she kept the best people. And we'll see how it all works out.

But our country was run very badly. I mean, whether it was that or contracts that were signed that were so bad—so obviously bad. And I go through them in speeches. I could go through them all day long. I could read—for billions and hundreds of billions of dollars. And all of that fat and waste and fraud and abuse is being taken out. But it's incredible what's happened.

Now, Department of Education is—maybe more so than any other place has a lot of people they can be cut. They're, number one, not showing up to work. Number two, they're not doing a good job. And if you take a look at our education process—and if you look at the charts, because they have numerous charts where they do the top 40—we're at number 37, 38, 39, and 40. And recently, they hit—during Biden's last few days, they hit last. So they were number 40. And yet we're number one in cost per pupil. So it's pretty bad. But—we have a—

*Q.* Sir, a number of the States that—

*President Trump.* We have a dream. And you know what the dream is? We're going to move the Department of Education. We're going to move education into the States, so that the States—instead of bureaucrats working in Washington—so that the States can run education.

And you have Norway. You have Denmark. You have Sweden. You have various—Finland—you have various countries that do very well. You also have China that does very well in education, which is a pretty big tribute to China, I must say—1.4 billion, and they're in the top 10, and it's pretty amazing. So we can't blame size anymore.

You know, normally you'd blame size. It's too big. How can you do it? But China does it. So we think, when you move it back to Iowa and Indiana and all the States that run so well—there's so many. I could name 30, maybe—almost 40. Those will be as good as Denmark. Those will be as good as Norway, and they'll be as good as any of these—I believe they'll be as good as any.

Now, then you're going to have 10 that won't be so great. You're going to have five that will not be good at all, but we'll work with them.

*Q.* Well, some States, sir, don't—

*President Trump.* And we'll get them to be good.

*Q.* —have the tax base to support it.

*President Trump.* But what we want to do is always school choice, but we're going to do school choice, and we're doing it.

But we want education to be moved back where the States run education, where the parents of the children will be running education, where Governors that are doing a very good job will be running education, not run—I drive through the city, and I see, like, so many buildings—Department of Education, Department of—big buildings—the Department—and by the way, they're empty. Nobody shows up to work. So I think Linda did a very good job.

Q. Mr. President, do you——

Q. Mr. President, on Russia.

### *Russia/Ukraine*

Q. ——do you have a meeting with Vladimir Putin scheduled or a conversation? What would be your message to him——

*President Trump.* I won't comment on that, but we had a great success yesterday. We have a full cease-fire when it—if it kicks in. We have to see. It's up to Russia now. But we've had a good relationship with both parties, actually, and we'll see.

We'll be knowing—people are going to Russia right now as we speak. And hopefully, we can get a cease-fire from Russia. And if we do, I think that would be 80 percent of the way to getting this——

*Prime Minister Martin.* Absolutely.

*President Trump.* ——horrible bloodbath finished. It's a bloodbath that's taking place over there. On average, 2- to 3,000 young people a week are being killed in that stupid war that would have never happened if I were President.

So we have people going over there.

Mr. VP, do you have anything to say about it? Because you're very much involved.

[*Laughter*]

*Vice President James D. "J.D." Vance.* Yes, sir.

*President Trump.* What's going to happen?

*Vice President Vance.* Well, we've got some conversations that are happening on the phone and in person with some of our representatives over the next couple of days. As the President said, we think that we're in a very good place where the Ukrainians have agreed to a cease-fire, and we're now going to see whether we can get the Russians to agree to a cease-fire too. And we'll certainly have news on that when we—when we find out that news.

[*Several reporters spoke at once.*]

### *President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin of Russia/Inflation*

Q. Are you confident—are you confident that Vladimir Putin will keep the cease-fire, considering that he's broken them in the past before?

*President Trump.* I haven't—we haven't spoken to him yet with substance, because we just found out and we just were able to get Ukraine to agree. So we're going to know very soon. I've gotten some positive messages, but a positive message means nothing. This is a——

Q. What leverage do you have over them——

*President Trump.* ——very serious situation.

Q. ——if they don't comply?

*President Trump.* This is a situation that could lead to World War III, and Biden should have never let it happen. Incompetence allowed this to happen. This shouldn't have happened. October 7 in the Middle East should have never happened, with Israel. The horrible leaving—the way they left Afghanistan should have never happened. Inflation should have never happened.

You know, we have great inflation numbers, by the way. Just got released. Inflation is way down. And it's based on what we've done, and we've done it in a very short period of time.

You know, we had virtually no inflation. For 4 years, we had almost no inflation. And when these characters took over, we went from no inflation to the worst inflation probably in the history of our country. So it's very interesting.

Go ahead.

[*Several reporters spoke at once.*]

*President Trump.* And by the way, I have to speak of inflation.

I love these socks. What's with these socks? [*Laughter*]

*Q.* Show us.

*Vice President Vance.* It's in honor of the Taoiseach, sir.

*Prime Minister Martin.* [*Inaudible*]

*Q.* Show us, Mr. Vice President.

*President Trump.* I'm trying to stay focused, but I'm very impressed with the VP's socks.

[*Several reporters spoke at once.*]

#### *Northern Ireland/Ukraine/Russia*

*Q.* What does it say to you that the United States is recognized as having such an important role in the peace process, and yet half the parties from the Northern Ireland government have decided not to come to the St. Patrick's Day celebrations?

*President Trump.* They haven't—what?

*Q.* They haven't come over. They're boycotting the St. Patrick's Day celebrations in Ireland.

*President Trump.* What are they boycotting?

*Q.* They are talking about your position on Gaza as one of the reasons why—

*President Trump.* Oh, I haven't heard that.

*Q.* —they've decided to stay away.

*President Trump.* I really haven't heard that. Look—

*Prime Minister Martin.* Could—could I just say, as a—

*President Trump.* Yes.

*Prime Minister Martin.* —to pay tribute to the President on the peace initiatives. The one thing we've learned in Ireland about the peace process that you've just spoken about—and I recall back in the early nineties when the first tentative steps to get peace in Ireland, people criticized people like John Hume or people like Albert Reynolds—the then-Taoiseach.

But they kept going. And when we got that cease-fire in '93—okay, it took a number of years to get the comprehensive peace settlement, but, again, the guns, more or less, largely went silent.

The war in Ukraine is a devastating war on young people. And I think that very simple, straightforward narrative—

*President Trump.* That's right.

*Prime Minister Martin.* —is to be commended. We all have children. We—I mean, we—shocked at the prospect of young people losing their lives in that number, be they Ukrainian, be

they Russian, whatever. Anything we can do to stop the violence, I think, is an extremely positive thing.

And there will be all sorts of people having qualifications and all the rest of it. It's our job then to work on it and to try and build it—Europe, U.S., and every——

*[Several reporters spoke at once.]*

*President Trump.* I will say—and thank you for that. But I will say, last week, 2,500 young people died while we sit here and talk——

*Prime Minister Martin.* Yes.

*President Trump.* ——and while they talk about peace. But they've been talking about peace—this should have never happened. This war should have never happened. It would have never happened if I was President. That's what makes me more angry than anything else, because you've had far more people die than they report—then these people report——

*Prime Minister Martin.* The media report.

*President Trump.* ——for whatever reason. But you had far more people—the numbers are far more devastating. You'll find that out someday.

And it doesn't affect you very much. You're—they're not Irish, and they're not from my country. They're from Russia, mostly—almost all from Russia—and from Ukraine. And people could say: "Why are you doing this? Why are you involved in that?" Because they're—2,000 people a week are dying, and they have families, and they have mothers, and they have fathers, and they have sisters, and they have brothers and friends, and they're dying. And I've seen the pictures—the satellite pictures that we see all the time, and it looks like Gettysburg in its prime, because that was, they say, one of the most horrific battles ever.

You have kids lying all over these fields that are dead because the weapons today are unbelievable, between drones and various types of guns. I'm not even talking about—beyond that, with the—with the big babies. You understand what I mean.

*Prime Minister Martin.* Yes.

*President Trump.* I hate to even mention the name—the nuclear name. I hate to mention it.

But you have weapons today that are so powerful. And I see kids—every week, I see pictures of kids laying all over the field, dead. They're dead. Beautiful kids, they're dead.

And they're not from here, and they're not from where you are, but he's working very hard. We're all working hard to get this thing finished. It's crazy. Over nothing, and it's not going to go anywhere. It's just a terrible situation.

*[Several reporters spoke at once.]*

And I think we have a chance to get it done. So we've gotten——

*Q.* Mr. President——

*President Trump.* We've gotten half of it as a cease-fire. And if we can get Russia to stop, and then we have a full cease-fire, and I think it will never go back to war. I think something will happen.

*[Several reporters spoke at once.]*

Say it.

*Hamas Attacks of October 7, 2023, on Israel/Hostages Held in Gaza, Palestinian Territories*

*Q.* Mr. President, can I ask you about Ireland's relationship with Israel? Can I ask you about Ireland's relationship with Israel? There's been a lot of talk recently. The Government are looking to bring in what's called the "occupied territories bill," which would ban goods from occupied territories. I know you met with Prime Minister Netanyahu recently. Did Ireland come up in that conversation? Did he raise any concerns about the Irish Government's actions?

*President Trump.* One thing I'll tell you, you're not from Israel. That's for sure, huh? She—she's definitely not from Israel. That's an interesting question coming from you.

We talk about everything. Israel has been under siege, as you can see, and they had to fight back. October 7 was a terrible thing. People don't like to mention it, but it was a terrible, terrible day in the life of the world. And it's amazing the way people don't mention that. But it was—I've never seen anything like it. Those are other clips I get to see. You know, as President, you get to see clips that you'd rather not see, but I see clips, and that was a terrible day for the world.

And we're working hard with Israel. We're working hard to see if we can solve the problem.

I will say, I just saw 10 hostages, and they were treated really badly. They were really treated badly. I was shocked. I asked them, "Was there any kindness shown?" They were in there—one was in there for 500 days. One was 323 days. I said, "Was there any?"—I had 10 of them. I said, "Was there any kindness, despite—like, did they ever like say, 'Don't worry. You'll be okay.' Or give you a little wink, or give you, like, an extra slice of bread or something?"

And everybody said—all of these people said, "Zero." It was hatred. It was pure hatred. So, I mean, that's a very deep-seated problem. You have a—you have a big problem.

[Several reporters spoke at once.]

*Housing Development/Ireland*

*Q.* Could you give the Taoiseach some advice? Could you give the Taoiseach some advice? Ireland is in the midst of a housing crisis now, and I know you have a lot of experience as a businessman. How can the state build tens of thousands of houses at speed?

*President Trump.* You know why they have a housing crisis? Because they're doing so well. [Laughter] They can't—

*Q.* Perhaps.

*President Trump.* —produce houses fast enough. That's a good problem, not a bad problem.

*Prime Minister Martin.* That's a pretty good answer, President. [Laughter]

[Several reporters spoke at once.]

*President Trump.* Congratulations. No, it's true. Right?

[Several reporters spoke at once.]

Everybody should have that problem. That's okay. He's going to—

*Q.* Do you have any advice though?

*President Trump.* I know this gentleman. He'll get it solved.

*Q.* Will you put more tariffs on the EU? Will you respond to their retaliation?

*President Trump.* Of course, I'm going to respond.

*Q.* You will retaliate with more tariffs?

*President Trump.* The problem is, our country didn't respond.

Look, the EU was set up in order to take advantage of the United States.

*Q.* Including Ireland? Is Ireland taking advantage of the U.S.?

*President Trump.* Of course, they are. I can't—you know, I'm—I have great respect for Ireland and what they did, and they should have done just what they did, but the United States shouldn't have let it happen. We had stupid leaders. We had leaders that didn't have a clue. Or let's say they weren't businesspeople, but they didn't have a clue what was happening.

And all of a sudden, Ireland has, you know, our pharmaceutical companies and other—this Ireland—this beautiful island of—its island of 5 million people has got the entire U.S. pharmaceutical industry in its grasp.

And you know, you mentioned housing, and you mentioned other things. I mean, I have property in Ireland, as you know, and I love it. It does great. But I'd like to have—I'd like to see the United States not have been so stupid for so many years—not just with Ireland, with everybody.

You know, I looked at trade deals. I was telling the group yesterday, I looked at trade deals in term one. It's one of the reasons I decided I had to do this, because somebody had to straighten it out, and I didn't see anybody that was going to. I looked at trade deals that were so bad, and actually saying: "How is it possible that this could have happened? Who would have been so stupid to let these deals happen?"

For instance, when the pharmaceutical company started to go to Ireland, I would have said: "That's okay if you want to go to Ireland. I think it's great. But if you want to sell anything into the United States, I'm going to put a 200-percent tariff on you, so you're never going to be able to sell anything into the United States." You know what they would have done? They would have stayed here.

[*Several reporters spoke at once.*]

*President Trump.* He's so lucky that I wasn't; he's so lucky.

[*Several reporters spoke at once.*]

*Corporate Tax Rates/Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer*

*Q.* Are you planning—sir, are you planning to lower corporate taxes—

*Prime Minister Martin.* Talk about—

*Q.* Sir, are you planning to lower corporate taxes to match Ireland's to reshore—

*President Trump.* Well, we are—

*Q.* —American business?

*President Trump.* We are planning to lower taxes, yes—if the Democrats behave, but the Democrats have no clue. You saw that the other night during the speech.

Two young women were slaughtered by illegal aliens, one young man has very serious cancer, and many other problems. We look at the people up there. They all had difficulty—very serious difficulty. But when we're talking about two young girls—beautiful young girls, Laken

Riley and you know—you know the whole—the whole story that—evening was a disaster for the Democrats, in my opinion.

And I would mention—and I'd see two mothers that were inconsolable as they stood crying. Their daughters have been absolutely just destroyed, killed—viciously killed. And the young man who loves the police departments, he had cancer and has cancer, a very bad cancer.

There wasn't a—from people sitting there, Democrats, there wasn't a hand clap. They're—nobody stood. They were just stone-faced. These people are sick. There's something wrong with them. There was no standing for anybody.

The only thing they liked is when they heard about the death taking place with Ukraine. That way—they were happy about that. They were happy about that.

Well, Pocahontas was very happy. She's the one that was clapping—that's why I looked at her. I said, "Oh, it's Pocahontas." These people are sick. They don't know what's happening in the real world.

The Democrats have to get their act together, and if they don't vote, then what you're going to do is you're going to have taxes that are going to go through the roof. You're going to have a very bad time. You're going to have some very bad things happen, and people are going to blame the Democrats.

And Schumer is a Palestinian, as far as I'm concerned. You know, he's become a Palestinian. He used to be Jewish. He's not Jewish anymore. He's a Palestinian.

Okay.

[Several reporters spoke at once.]

*Q.* On tariffs, sir. On tariffs, there's been a lot of on and off, some inconsistency. You're—  
*President Trump.* There's no inconsistency. Only with—

*Q.* What I mean by that, sir, is—

*President Trump.* Only with NBC—

*Q.* No, no, sir, may I—may I—

*President Trump.* —which is one of the worst networks on television, by the way. Let me just tell you the inconsistency.

*Q.* It was your home for a long time, sir.

#### *U.S. Automobile Industry/Tariffs/Border Security*

*President Trump.* I had the right—I have the right to adjust. And I would call—I was called by the automakers—as an example, General Motors, Ford, et cetera—the Big Three, the Big Four—and they asked me to do them a favor: Could I delay it for a period of 4 weeks so that they're not driven into a little bit of a disaster for them. They actually love what I'm doing, but they had a problem.

And I didn't—I'm not like a block that just, "I won't delay." I have—it's called flexibility. It's not called inconsistency. It's called flexibility. And—

*Q.* Well, then may I ask it another way then, sir?

*President Trump.* —I think you want me to be flexible too.

*Q.* Is flexibility going to be your ongoing view towards tariffs?

*President Trump.* Sure. I'll always have flexibility, but there will be very little flexibility once we start. April 2 is going to be a very big day for the United States of America. The United States of America is going to take back a lot of what was stolen from it by other countries and by, frankly, incompetent U.S. leadership—grossly incompetent.

I gave you an example of Ireland. I would have never let that happen. Impossible for that to have happened.

But we're going to take back our wealth, and we're going to take back—a lot of the companies that left are coming back. If you haven't read, we have the biggest computer chip company ever—ever. Has virtually all of the market. They call—I didn't call them. They called me, and they called for two reasons.

Number one, we had a great election of somebody that they want running the country. And we ran—we won in a big mandate. We won every swing State. We won by millions of votes. We won by 2,750 districts out of—to 500. Think of that, 2,750 districts out of—to 500. That's why the map, when you looked at it, was entirely red, meaning Republican. Not—not meaning communism—meaning Republican. *[Laughter]*

So, anyway. So, look, we—this country needed somebody to defend it. It's this big, beautiful place that was being ripped off by illegal immigrants coming in from prisons, coming in from mental institutions—the gang members, gang leaders, drug dealers pouring into our country with the open borders.

I am so angry at the last 4 years, at what they've done to our country—what they've done to this country, between inflation—but maybe the most that bothers me is that they would allow millions of people to come into our country that are stone-cold murderers, killers, drug dealers, the worst people—gang members, the worst people allowed into our country, and we're now getting them out. We're going to get them out. We're getting them out.

I want to thank Tom Homan, by the way. He's doing a great job. And I want to thank Kristi Noem, who's doing a fantastic job. That's not a—this is a job that's so unnecessary. This should have never happened. This should have never happened.

So we're bringing back our country—

*Q.* Are you satisfied with the rate of deportations?

*President Trump.* —in many ways, not only financially—and financially, we'll be stronger than ever before.

I think the markets are going to soar when they see what's happening. I tell you what, I'm called every day by numerous big, big companies.

I spoke at the Business Roundtable yesterday. They had the largest attendance they've ever had. And these are only the CEOs and chairmen, but mostly the people that run—the boss—the people that run the top 150 companies. A hundred and fifty people showed up. Every single company showed up. First time it ever happened. It's been around a long time. The biggest business leaders.

We had a great discussion. Went really well. And I want to tell you, there is tremendous optimism out there about our country, in terms of regulations being cut, in terms of taxes being cut.

And it would be great if the Democrats would—would do what's right—

*Q.* How do you explain the market volatilities—?

*President Trump.* It would be great if the Democrats would do what's right for our country for a change, because they really are—they're—they've lost their way. They've lost their way. They think.

[*Several reporters spoke at once.*]

They think—they think that people pouring into our country from prisons, jails. Murderers—we have 11,088 murderers that were allowed into—people that murdered people, half of which murdered more than one person in our country. I'm getting them the hell out.

But who would run it—who would allow this to happen? Who would allow men to play in women's sports? And they're still fighting it. They're still—it's got to be a 95-percent issue.

But they're on television. This morning I see this person, a Democrat, say, "We should have the right." No, no, men should not be—they're hurting women. They're hurting women very badly. They're hurting women, and they should not. And they're also demeaning women.

But who would want these things? And everything is transgender. Everybody transgender. That's all you hear about. No, that's why we won the election in record numbers.

But very importantly, now—it is what it is—the Democrats should get with us and come up with good tax policy so that Ireland and other countries can't take our businesses away from us. And he understands exactly—you guys did the right thing. I'm not upset with you. I think—I respect what you've done. You've done a great job.

[*Several reporters spoke at once.*]

But our people—our people—our people did a very bad job.

[*Several reporters spoke at once.*]

*Q.* How—how advanced are your plans to try and bring some of those companies back to America, and will you be briefing the Taoiseach today?

*President Trump.* I'd love to have them back. I mean, I'd love to have them back, but he'll be fighting me on that. Yes.

*Prime Minister Martin.* I mean, what I would say, President——

*Q.* Taoiseach, how would you respond to that?

*Prime Minister Martin.* ——if I could—if I could, one second, just make the point. It's a two-way street too. We are investing a lot more in America now. And people may not realize, but Ryanair, one of our biggest airlines, for example——

*President Trump.* I'll trade. [*Laughter*]

*Prime Minister Martin.* ——AerCap——

*President Trump.* I'll trade positions. [*Laughter*]

*Prime Minister Martin.* ——they buy more—the two of them together buy more Boeing airplanes than anybody else outside of America.

*President Trump.* That's good.

*Prime Minister Martin.* That's a little-known fact. It doesn't turn up in the statistics, but Ryanair and AerCap, a big aircraft leasing company—Irish company—have done great work with Boeing——

*President Trump.* And they've done—they've done a good job?

*Prime Minister Martin.* —and huge investments over the last couple of years, you know. So—and there's a lot of Irish companies here now—about 700-odd Irish companies based in America. Glanbia, you know, is—is more frequent. Smurfit and Rapt, as I was saying to you this morning, Vice President.

A lot of them creating thousands of jobs in America. That's only fair, and that's correct.

*President Trump.* That's right. Yes.

*Prime Minister Martin.* That's the way it should happen. And I think it's a very good relationship we have. It's a historic one, and it's happened over time. We've added value to American companies. We've increased our value. They've got access to the European market, and they did all of that.

I understand where you're coming from fully, but I think it's a relationship that we can develop and that will endure into the future and will change and will adapt.

*President Trump.* That is true.

*Prime Minister Martin.* And you're evolving, and you're doing things.

*President Trump.* And they've done a very good job.

[*Several reporters spoke at once.*]

#### *Ireland-U.S. Trade*

*Q.* Taoiseach, how do you feel about the President——

*President Trump.* Now, I—just will say this.

*Q.* —wanting to take pharma companies from Ireland?

*President Trump.* But with all that we've said, we can talk about Ryanair. There's a massive deficit.

*Prime Minister Martin.* Yes, yes, yes.

*President Trump.* I don't mean by a little bit. I mean, there's a massive deficit that we have with Ireland——

*Prime Minister Martin.* Yes.

*President Trump.* —and with other countries too, and we want to sort of even that out as nicely as we can, and we'll work together. We're going to work together great.

*Prime Minister Martin.* Yes, absolutely.

*President Trump.* But the deficit is massive.

[*Several reporters spoke at once.*]

Wait until you hear this one.

#### *Russia/Nord Stream 2 Natural Gas Pipeline Between Russia and Germany/President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine*

*Q.* You said earlier that it is now up to Russia, in terms of a cease-fire.

*President Trump.* Yes.

*Q.* Is there anything you can do in terms of pressuring Russia or——

*President Trump.* Yes.

*Q.* —in terms of sanctions or—what can you do?

*President Trump.* Yes, we can, but I hope it's not going to be necessary. Sure, we can pressure. We can do that with Russia.

Remember this: Russia took Georgia from Bush, right? They took Crimea from a man named Obama—Barack Hussein Obama, right? They're trying to take the whole thing from Biden. They're going for the whole ball of wax.

Who was the only one that ever took anything from? Trump. And in fact, I'm the one that stopped Nord Stream 2, the pipeline. The biggest pipeline anywhere in the world. I stopped it. It was dead. And then Biden got in, and he approved it. Nobody mentions that.

What I did to Russia was very tough. I was the toughest ever. But nope, they never took anything from me. They took them from Obama and Bush, and they took it from Sleepy Joe Biden. With Biden, they wanted to take the whole country, but I think I've stopped that, but we'll see.

But yes, there are things you could do that—that wouldn't be pleasant. In a financial sense—I can do things financially that would be very bad for Russia. I don't want to do that because I want to get peace. I want to see peace, and we'll see. But in a financial sense, yes, we could do things very bad for Russia. It would be devastating for Russia. But I don't want to do that because I want to see peace.

And we're getting close to maybe getting something done. We've got Ukraine done.

And as you know, I've always said that Ukraine might have been the more difficult party. You saw—you were here a week ago when some interesting things happened. I had somebody that didn't seem to want peace. Now he's agreed to peace. So we'll see what happens.

[*Several reporters spoke at once.*]

*Q.* Mr. President, what about on Gaza?

*Q.* Hey.

*President Trump.* Brian [Brian Glenn, Real America's Voice]. Brian.

*Q.* Yes, thanks.

*President Trump.* Thank you.

*Q.* First, we'll congratulate you on your lower inflation core rates.

*President Trump.* Thank you.

*Q.* Gas prices going down, airline prices going down.

This is for our Irish gentleman here, if I can see him real quickly. Welcome to the United States. You look great.

*Prime Minister Martin.* Thank you.

*Q.* Nice suit. [*Laughter*]

*President Trump.* That's a—now you're feeling good. He knows.

*Prime Minister Martin.* That's compliments too.

*Q.* President Trump ran on MAGA—"Make America Great Again." If you could run on MIGA, "Make Ireland Great Again," what would your number-one issue be for people in Ireland right now to make your country stronger?

And then I've got a two-part question to that as well.

*Prime Minister Martin.* Yes. The number-one issue in Ireland is housing, to be honest. And I think it was correctly pointed out, we've got to build more houses. We've got to build them faster to give the young people of Ireland an opportunity to afford to buy a house or to afford to rent a house.

We have a lot of other good things happening. That's my number-one priority.

*Q.* Wonderful. Thank you.

*Q.* Are you trying to infer, Mr. President—

*Actor Rosie O'Donnell*

*Q.* My second-part question to this: Ireland is known for very happy, fun-loving people, great attitude—many in this room right now that I've met. Why in the world did you let Rosie O'Donnell move to Ireland? Do you think she's going to lower your happiness level? [*Laughter*]

*President Trump.* That's true. Thank you. I like that question.

[*Several reporters spoke at once.*]

*Q.* Mr. Prime Minister, are you expecting—are you expecting—

*President Trump.* Do you know you have Rosie O'Donnell?

*Prime Minister Martin.* I don't—

*President Trump.* Do you know who she is?

*Prime Minister Martin.* I don't know—

*President Trump.* Do you know who she is?

*Ireland's Ambassador to the U.S. Geraldine Byrne Nason.* Yes, he met her.

*Q.* I'm joking.

*Prime Minister Martin.* I'm not fully—you're joking.

*President Trump.* You're better off—you're better off not knowing. [*Laughter*]

[*Several reporters spoke at once.*]

*Q.* Prime Minister, are you expecting—are you expecting to inform the President your views on Gaza, considering that you have diametrically opposed positions on the state of Palestine? Your country is one of three in Europe that recognizes the state of Palestine. Are you expecting to discuss this with the President? Are you expecting to inform him of your position?

*Prime Minister Martin.* I don't have ever to inform the President. He is very well clued into—to the whole situation.

We share the President's, again, unrelenting focus on peace. And his envoy and the president himself, as soon as they came into office, went to get a cease-fire. We've been calling for a cease-fire for a long time.

We wanted to consolidate the peace. That is our fundamental—and we went the hostages out. I've been saying it from day one. It's a horrific thing to do to take someone as a hostage.

And I went to Kibbutz Be'eri after October the 7th, in solidarity with Israel, and that gets forgotten. And I went a week or two afterwards. I saw the kibbutz. It was a shocking thing to see,

even though it was a week or two after the horror. It was a village. You could see life going on prior to the attack. It was something that will not leave me.

And so—and I've been interested in the Middle East for a long, long time. It's complex, and it's all of that. But we do desperately need the hostages out. All of them. It's been far too long—

*Q.* Are you——

*Prime Minister Martin.* Let me finish, please. And then we need to cease-fire. We need to consolidate that. We need a surge of humanitarian aid into Gaza, because, again, there's too many children and too many people starving—and soldiers

*President Trump.* That's right.

*Prime Minister Martin.* There's too many. And it's that humanitarian impulse is what motivates the Irish, in respect of its views.

And I've always been of the view—it's been our view that a two-state solution would be ideal. It's become much more challenging and difficult as time has moved on.

But that has always been our position. But it's genuinely to have people—because we've gone through this. We discussed this prior to you coming in. We've been through some of this: people hating each other, terrible acts of violence carried out on each other. We came through it.

It's our earnest hope that Arab and Jewish people can live side by side. And I've met with people—parents of children who were killed on both sides called Parents Circle in Israel. And they work——

### *Gaza, Palestinian Territories*

*Q.* What about the President's——

*Prime Minister Martin.* ——to try and bring people together. It's difficult work, but——

*Q.* What about the President's plan to expel Palestinians out of Gaza? Are you discussing that with him and giving him your position?

*President Trump.* Nobody is expelling any Palestinians. I don't know—who are you with?

*Q.* I am with Voice of America, sir.

*President Trump.* Oh, no wonder. Okay. Voice of America.

[*Several reporters spoke at once.*]

*Q.* [*Inaudible*]—ask the Taoiseach how he feels about the President just saying that he would like to take back U.S. companies—pharma companies based in Ireland?

*Prime Minister Martin.* Well, I think the pharmaceutical companies in Ireland are doing very well, as the President has outlined.

*President Trump.* Yes.

*Prime Minister Martin.* And you know, again, I think it's about that two-way partnership. I understand fully where the President is coming from. I think there's actually room—and we can discuss all this later—I think there's room for those companies to grow in America. And many of them, by the way, have already announced fairly significant manufacturing investments now——

*President Trump.* It's true. Just recently.

*Prime Minister Martin.* ——in—like, people like Eli Lilly, for example——

*President Trump.* Mm-hmm.

*Prime Minister Martin.* —who have been a longstanding presence in Ireland since 1970s. I spoke to the CEO recently.

*President Trump.* He's great.

*Prime Minister Martin.* Great guy. And he's announced, I think, about a \$50 billion—

*President Trump.* That's right.

*Prime Minister Martin.* —investment in America.

*President Trump.* Plants. New plants.

*Prime Minister Martin.* But there's big investment—you know, they've had big investment in Ireland. Ireland has served them well too, you know. The workforce is very strong. It's an educated workforce. They've delivered well.

During COVID-19, a number of CEOs said to me a lot of the plants in Ireland were the only plants that never closed for a single day during COVID. Not a single day. Productivity is good and so on, like that. [*Inaudible*]

[*Several reporters spoke at once.*]

*Russia/Ukraine*

*Q.* Mr. President, thank you so much. You spoke to Vladimir Putin for quite a while on the phone.

*President Trump.* Yes.

*Q.* So I want to know your assessment. When you take this deal to him now, what do you—how do you assess the chances of Putin saying yes?

*President Trump.* I have no assessment, and I don't go by chances.

I think it makes sense for Russia. A lot of downside for Russia too. And we have a very complex situation solved on one side, pretty much solved. We've also discussed land and other things that, you know, go with it. We're not just doing it and saying "cease-fire." We don't know what's happening.

We know the areas of land we're talking about, whether it's pulled back or not pulled back. You know, we've discussed a lot of the details of what has to go because we don't want to be wasting time.

We don't want to be wasting time while people are dying. I mean, as we're sitting here, you probably had two people die on that very open field. You know, it's dead flat. It's great farmland, and it's dead flat. There's no protection.

The only thing that stops a bullet is a human body, and these are bodies that are young people, and they're stopping a lot of bullets, because a lot of bullets are flying across those level fields—dead flat, no protection whatsoever. It is a disaster.

And so I hope he's going to have a cease-fire.

[*Several reporters spoke at once.*]

*Q.* And you are using—you are using the American leverage to get a lot of political issues that you want across, right?

*President Trump.* Well, I don't want to get into that.

*Q.* And I'm wondering——

*President Trump.* But if I had to, I'm the only one that's dealt with him successfully. Everyone else went through it. Bush didn't deal with him successfully. He dealt with him terribly. He got ripped off.

And Obama was a disaster. You know——

*Ukraine/U.S. Security Assistance*

*Q.* So what leverage do you, sir——

*President Trump.* ——they had with Obama—he gave them sheets, and I gave them anti-tank missiles. You know that, right? It's called Javelin. You know the Javelin? I'm the one that gave them the Javelins. People don't say that. And then, they say, "Oh, Trump has a great relationship with Russia."

*Q.* But so what leverage do you have to use? But—Mr. President——

*President Trump.* I'm the one that gave them the Javelins. Obama gave them sheets. That's an expression. He gave sheets; I gave Javelins. So——

[*Several reporters spoke at once.*]

*Q.* Mr. President, how worried—how worried should the—how worried should the undocumented Irish be about your administration that you don't round them up and send them home again?

*President Trump.* Oh, I think the Irish love Trump. We won the Irish with a tremendous amount of vote. I want to thank you very much. We won in the eighties with Irish. I got the Irish vote.

I think I have it locked up pretty good, unless I did something very stupid, like drained your company—your wonderful place of all of its companies. If I drained Ireland of all the companies—maybe I'd lose the Irish vote. I don't know. [*Laughter*] But right now—no, I love—I love you—I love it. I've been there many times, as you know.

*Prime Minister Martin.* Yes.

*President Trump.* And we don't want to do anything to hurt Ireland. We want to—but we do want fairness, and—and he understands that.

[*Several reporters spoke at once.*]

*Q.* Mr. President, on the markets. You often——

*President Trump.* No, that's enough, Kelly. Thank you.

*Q.* Mr. President, is there anything that the Taoiseach could say to you today that would dissuade you from going ahead with the 25-percent tariffs on EU goods?

*President Trump.* I can't hear.

*The President's Admiration for Irish Fighters*

*Q.* Mr. President, it's Irish-American Appreciation Month, you've named it there. Who—who's your favorite Irish person?

*President Trump.* Oh, there's so many. Are you kidding me? Well, I do happen to like your fighter. He's got the best tattoos I've ever seen. [*Laughter*] I don't know if I'm a big——

*Q.* Conor McGregor?

*President Trump.* But that——

*Q.* Conor McGregor, is it?

*President Trump.* Boy, you have—you have—well, Conor is great, right? You know, talking about Conor.

But you have a lot of them. You have a lot of great Irish fighters, actually. They're great fighters. I don't know what that is, but Ireland has always had a lot of good fighters.

*Q.* The "Fighting Irish."

*President Trump.* You know why? Because they're tough people. They're smart people, and they're passionate people, and they really have been—over the years so many—I think your father was a great fighter, right?

*Prime Minister Martin.* He was. You're damn right. [*Laughter*]

*President Trump.* Wow. Look at you. You're so smooth and so—[*laughter*].

*Prime Minister Martin.* He was a pretty good defensive boxer. [*Laughter*]

*President Trump.* That's what I——

*Prime Minister Martin.* He would duck, and he could weave.

*President Trump.* He was a really good——

*Prime Minister Martin.* He was a good boxer. Yes, yes. He fought for Ireland, boxed for Ireland.

*President Trump.* Yes.

*Prime Minister Martin.* Fought some pretty good guys.

*President Trump.* That means you're genetically—I'm not going to mess around with you. [*Laughter*]

[*Several reporters spoke at once.*]

Okay. Let's—a couple of more from somebody that didn't ask a question.

*Q.* Mr. President, please.

*President Trump.* Yes, please, go ahead.

*Apple Inc./European Union*

*Q.* Mr. President, should Apple go back to the U.S. from Ireland?

*President Trump.* Who?

*Q.* Apple?

*President Trump.* Oh, Apple has been treated very badly. Look, Apple had tremendously bad luck. I thought they had a very good lawsuit, but they lost.

*Prime Minister Martin.* Yes. We fought with them.

*President Trump.* Sixteen billion dollars. Sixteen billion. And they were after a lot of our American companies.

See, that's what's unfair. It's the European Union. I'm not blaming you. I'm blaming the European Union. The European Union has gone after our companies. And Apple is a great

company, and they have to give \$16-, \$17 billion on a lawsuit that I didn't think was a good lawsuit.

No, that's not good.

### *European Union/Canada/China*

*Q.* Should that money be going to the U.S., President?

*President Trump.* No, the European—we have a problem with the European Union. They don't take our farm products. They don't take our cars. We take millions of cars—BMW's and Mercedes-Benz and Volkswagens and everything. We take millions of cars.

I said to Angela Merkel at the time—I said, "Angela, how many Chevrolets do we have in the middle of Munich?" "Why, none." I said: "You're right. We have none." That's the way it is. We have none.

No, I would—I'm not happy with the European Union, I want to tell you. And——

### *Tariffs on European Automobiles/Canada-U.S. Trade*

*Q.* Will you put tariffs on cars?

*President Trump.* And we're going to win that—we're going to win that financial battle. It's a financial battle.

[*Several reporters spoke at once.*]

*Q.* Tariffs on European cars, Mr. President?

*Q.* And so should Apple go back to the U.S., President? Should Apple go back to the U.S.?

*Q.* Tariffs on European cars, is that something you're now considering?

*President Trump.* Oh, absolutely. I will do that. Yes.

[*Several reporters spoke at once.*]

Think of it. They have millions of cars coming in—millions and millions of cars. One of, probably, the largest. Japan is very big too. But—and they don't accept our cars. We make great cars. They don't have our cars, but we have their cars.

They don't have our farm products. We have the greatest farmers in the world. They don't accept our farm products, and we accept theirs.

So, you know, things are going to change unless they do what they have to do. And they know what they have to do. They—this is not going to be a tough battle. In my opinion, not going to be tough.

Just like when Ontario charged us. Everybody said, "Oh, they just charged." I said, "This will be won in 1 hour." And they announced what we were going to do, and they withdrew their little threat.

And what they don't say in Canada is that 270 percent—have you ever heard that?—we have tariffs on our dairy products from Canada of 270 percent, going up to 400 percent. You never hear that. Canada is absolutely one of the worst.

And we have—when I say "worst," worst in terms of charging tariffs. Their dairy products—they charge our farmers 240, 250, 270, and 400 percent, okay? Think of that for dairy product. And we charge them like peanuts. You know why? Because we've been improperly run for so many years.

I had that all settled in my first term. But then, of course, Biden, you know, he let everything go to hell.

One of the things we did is, we took from China hundreds of billions of dollars, and I have great respect for President Xi. But he understood that. He understood it was a one-way street, and you can't have a one-way street.

Okay. One more question.

[*Several reporters spoke at once.*]

*Q.* Can you say which countries you might target in your next travel ban?

*President Trump.* Say it?

*Q.* Can you say which countries you might target in your next travel ban?

*President Trump.* Wouldn't that be a stupid thing for me to say? [*Laughter*]

[*Several reporters spoke at once.*]

*President Trump.* He said which countries am I going to target for the next travel ban.

*Q.* Taoiseach, as part of the reciprocal——

*President Trump.* Can you believe somebody would ask that question?

[*Several reporters spoke at once.*]

*Q.* As part—as part—as part of the——

#### *Ireland/Trump International Golf Links and Hotel Doonbeg*

*Q.* On Ireland, Mr. President. What tariffs specifically are you going to put on Ireland?

*President Trump.* Well, we're going to talk. We're going to be talking, really, to the European Union. You know, I will tell you, there is one little—we'll end it with this.

So I have a property—a big property in Ireland that you know well, and it's one of the most highly rated hotels in all of Europe. It's beautiful. Doonbeg. It's a beautiful 600 acres on the ocean, and everybody knows it. And we have a beautiful hotel.

And I was going to do a project there. A big expansion of the place. This was when I was a civilian, before the Presidency, before I even thought about the Presidency. But I was going to do a really beautiful expansion of the—because it does very well.

And I got the approvals from Ireland so quickly. They were so professional. They wanted it. You know, it's economic developments. It's jobs. It's construction jobs. A big expansion, beautiful expansion.

And—but I was told something that bothered me. They said, "Sir, you also have to get approved by the European Union." I said, "Why do I have to go to the European Union to expand a hotel that's in Ireland?" They said, "Well, that's the way it is." I say, "Well, shouldn't that go fast?" They said, "No, it will take at least 7 years."

You gave me the approval in about 4 weeks. It was a beautiful, professional—if you took 4 years, you wouldn't have done a better job. You know, everything——

*Prime Minister Martin.* Yes, yes.

*President Trump.* ——was done environmentally, everything. There's no reason to take very long. I had everything from Ireland in 4 weeks. And then, I hired somebody. He said, "The

process will be from 5 to 7 years." And I said, "Oh, really?" And then I found out that they were playing games.

No, think about how bad that is for your country. So that was my first experience with the European Union. And I dropped the project. I just said: "I'm not going to do that. I'm not going to go 7 years to expand something."

But I have to—I'll hand it to Ireland. You were so professional, so good. But I don't know why European Union had to approve it.

*Prime Minister Martin.* Yes.

*President Trump.* And with them, it was—it was deal—and that's the European Union. So it was——

*Prime Minister Martin.* Can I say——

*President Trump.* ——it was a very bad experience I had.

*Prime Minister Martin.* Just say, President, you have the distinction of being, I think, the only president that has physically invested in Ireland.

*President Trump.* That's—well, that's good.

*Prime Minister Martin.* Through your—through your Doonbeg.

*President Trump.* And it's been a good investment.

*Prime Minister Martin.* And it's—I mean, for anybody, you should go there. [*Laughter*] It's just stunning.

*President Trump.* I love this guy.

[*Several reporters spoke at once.*]

*Prime Minister Martin.* No, I mean, it's—even if you don't play golf——

*President Trump.* Yes, it's beautiful.

*Prime Minister Martin.* ——I mean, it is a stunning landscape.

*President Trump.* Yes.

[*Several reporters spoke at once.*]

*Prime Minister Martin.* Your people have restored it very well.

*President Trump.* Yes.

*Prime Minister Martin.* And our people are going to continue to work with you on that piece to do it all sort of effectively and so on like that.

*President Trump.* They've had a great——

*Prime Minister Martin.* We're going to continue to do that.

*President Trump.* They've had a great relationship.

*Prime Minister Martin.* But it is—and the local people—our local councillor, Rita McNerney, texted me last week to say, "Tell President Trump to thank his family for the way they've worked with the local community and for the work that they've done."

*President Trump.* Yes. [*Inaudible*]

[*Several reporters spoke at once.*]

*Q.* Are you going to come to the Ryder Cup? Are you going to come to the Ryder Cup?

*Q.* [*Inaudible*]*—Rory McIlroy in the Open in July in Northern Ireland?*

*Q.* Are you planning to visit Doonbeg, Mr. President? Are you planning to visit?

*President Trump.* I love Rory. I think Rory is great. He's a great golfer. He just won 2 weeks ago. He's a great guy. I played golf with him 3 weeks ago, and he's really a fantastic player. He's in good form too. When he played with me, he played very well, I can tell you. I——

[*Several reporters spoke at once.*]

No, Rory—Rory, certainly, is one of the favorites. He's always going to be one of the—he's a very talented guy. He's a very good person too.

### *The President's Schedule/Trump International Golf Links and Hotel Doonbeg*

*Q.* Are you planning to visit Doonbeg, Mr. President?

*President Trump.* I will. I'll get there sometime.

*Prime Minister Martin.* Yes.

*President Trump.* I hope—I hope soon. In fact, if we meet, we'll meet at Doonbeg. Okay?  
[*Inaudible*]

*Prime Minister Martin.* Absolutely.

[*Several reporters spoke at once.*]

*President Trump.* But I hope to be able to get there. Yes.

### *North Atlantic Treaty Organization*

*Q.* Mr. President—Mr. President, does America have a future in NATO?

*President Trump.* What's that?

*Q.* Does America have a future in NATO? Where do you see NATO in five years?

*President Trump.* Well, NATO has to treat us fairly. If they pay their bills and if they do what they're supposed to do.

When I first got involved with NATO, as you know, they weren't paying their bills. There were 28 countries, and most of them weren't paying. And I got them to pay, and they paid billions and billions of dollars. I made a certain statement that I'm not going to be involved with NATO unless you're going to pay your bills.

And I was asked the question, "If we don't pay, are you going to help us?" I said, "No, if you don't pay, you're saying you're delinquent." A term—a real estate term. "You're delinquent. You're not paying your rent, or you're not paying your bills. If you're not paying your bills, I'm not going to help."

And everybody we took in. Your Secretary General will tell you. He was very generous to me. He said, "I've never seen anything like it." Money came in by the billions and billions and billions of dollars, and NATO became much stronger.

Now, NATO has expended a lot of that money in fighting this horrible war. It's too bad they had to do that, but they had the money from me. I was the one that got people to pay. The countries—most of the countries were not paying or they were paying a very small amount.

So we'll see. But NATO can be a force for the good. Absolutely, yes.

[Several reporters spoke at once.]

*Q.* Would you like to see Ireland join NATO, Mr. President?

*President Trump.* That's up to Ireland.

### *Ireland/European Union*

*Q.* Well, do you think Ireland and the EU are too close? Do you think that perhaps it—like you said, with the——

*President Trump.* We are very close.

*Q.* No, Ireland and the EU, do you think there's too close a relationship there? Do you think there needs to be a separation? Like you said, if you can't get planning permission when you can get it in Ireland, but you can't get it from the EU, do you think that's an issue?

*President Trump.* Well, look, I could just tell you about my personal experience—that Ireland treated me very well and the EU was terrible. And they stopped really a magnificent addition. It wasn't a big deal from the standpoint of the world. It wasn't like the things we're talking about now, but it would have been a very beautiful addition, and they stopped it, which is bad for Ireland.

And I don't know why. I don't know why it would take 5 to 7 years to get something approved, but that's what it was.

Thank you all very much. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:45 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to honorary U.S. Secret Service agent D.J. Daniel; Sen. Elizabeth A. Warren; White House Border Czar Thomas D. Homan; David A. Ricks, chair and chief executive officer, Eli Lilly and Co.; Irish mixed martial arts champion Conor McGregor; former Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany; Irish professional golfer Rory McIlroy; and Secretary General Mark Rutte of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Prime Minister Martin referred to Mayor of West Clare Municipal District and Councillor Rita McInerney of County Clare, Ireland. The transcript was released by the Office of Communications on March 13.

*Categories:* Interviews With the News Media : Exchanges with reporters, White House; Meetings With Foreign Leaders and International Officials : Ireland, Prime Minister Martin.

*Locations:* Washington, DC.

*Names:* Biden, Joseph R., Jr.; Bush, George W.; Daniel, D.J.; Homan, Thomas D.; Martin, Micheál; McGregor, Conor; McIlroy, Rory; McMahan, Linda E.; Merkel, Angela; Nason, Geraldine Byrne; Noem, Kristi L.; Obama, Barack; O'Donnell, Rosie; Putin, Vladimir Vladimirovich; Ricks, David A.; Rollins, Brooke L.; Rutte, Mark ; Schumer, Charles E.; Vance, James D. "J.D."; Warren, Elizabeth A.; Xi Jinping; Zelenskyy, Volodymyr.

*Subjects:* 2024 Presidential election; Afghanistan, withdrawal of U.S. military forces; Apple Inc.; Automobile industry, strengthening efforts; Canada, trade with U.S.; China, President; China, trade with U.S.; Education, global competitiveness; European Union, trade with U.S.; Federal workforce, reduction efforts; Gaza, hostages held by Hamas; Gaza, humanitarian situation; Germany, energy cooperation with Russia; Golf; Illegal immigration; Inflation; Ireland, Ambassador to U.S.; Ireland, investment and business ventures in U.S.; Ireland, Prime Minister; Ireland, trade with U.S.; Ireland, Trump International Golf Links and Hotel Doonbeg in Doonbeg; Israel, attacks by Hamas of October 7, 2023; Japan, trade with U.S.; North Atlantic Treaty Organization; Russia, conflict in Ukraine; Russia, energy cooperation with Germany; Russia,

President; Secretary of Agriculture; Secretary of Education; Secretary of Homeland Security; Semiconductor manufacturing; Senate minority leader; St. Patrick's Day; Stock market volatility; Tariffs; Transgender athletes, efforts to restrict participation; Ukraine, President; Ukraine, Russian invasion and airstrikes; Ukraine, U.S. assistance; Undocumented immigrants, deportation of criminals; Vice President; White House Border Czar.

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