

of a million dead, nearly 2 million more forced into exile, these memories will remain forever vivid to all of us whose heritage is rooted here.

But as an American, I must say, as I did just a few moments ago in Dublin downtown, that in that tragedy came the supreme gift of the Irish to the United States. The men, women, and children who braved the coffin ships when Galway and Mayo emptied, when Kerry and Cork took flight, brought a life and a spirit that has enormously enriched the life of our country.

The regimental banner brought by President Kennedy that hangs in this house reminds us of the nearly 200,000 Irishmen who took up arms in our Civil War. Many of them barely were off the ships when they joined the Union forces. They fought and died at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. Theirs was only the first of countless contributions to our Nation from those who fled the famine. But that contribution enabled us to remain a nation and to be here with you today in partnership for peace for your nation and for the peoples who live on this island.

The Irish have been building America ever since, our cities, our industry, our culture, our public life. I am proud that the delegation that has accompanied me here today includes the latest generation of Irish-American leaders in the United States, men and women who remain

devoted to increasing our strength and safeguarding our liberty.

In the last century, it was often said that the Irish who fled the great hunger were searching for *casleain na n-or*, castles of gold. I cannot say that they found those castles of gold in the United States, but I can tell you this: They built a lot of castles of gold for the United States in the prosperity and freedom of our Nation. We are grateful for what they did and for the deep ties to Ireland that they gave us in their sons and daughters.

Now we seek to repay that in some small way, by being a partner with you for peace. We seek somehow to communicate to every single person who lives here that we want for all of your children the right to grow up in an Ireland where this entire island gives every man and woman the right to live up to the fullest of their God-given abilities and gives people the right to live in equality and freedom and dignity.

That is the tide of history. We must make sure that the tide runs strong here, for no people deserve the brightest future more than the Irish.

God bless you, and thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:30 p.m. in the Dail Chamber at Leinster House. In his remarks, he referred to Chairman of the House of Deputies Sean Tracey.

Remarks at a Dinner Hosted by Prime Minister John Bruton of Ireland in Dublin

December 1, 1995

To the Taoiseach and Mrs. Bruton and to all of our hosts: Hillary and I are honored to be here tonight with all of you and to be here in the company of some of America's greatest Irish-Americans, including Senator George Mitchell, who has taken on such a great and difficult task; a bipartisan congressional delegation headed by Congressman Walsh; many members of the Ambassador's family, including Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, lieutenant governor of Maryland; the mayors of Chicago and Los Angeles; Secretary Riley, the Secretary of Education; Mark Gearan, Director of the Peace Corps. And as I said, we have the Secretary

of Commerce, Ron Brown, tonight, who wishes more than ever before in his life that he were Irish. [Laughter] I think he is, down deep inside. I thank you also for—I see the mayor of Pittsburgh here. I know I've left out some others—my wonderful stepfather, Dick Kelley, who thought it was all right when I got elected President, but when I brought him home to Ireland he knew I had finally arrived. [Laughter]

You know, the Taoiseach has been not only a good friend to me in our work for peace but a good friend to the United States. Indeed, he and Fionnuala actually came to Washington, DC, to celebrate their honeymoon. I think it's

fair to say that his honeymoon there lasted longer than mine did. *[Laughter]*

I managed to get even with at least one Member of Congress—or former Member of Congress—when I convinced Senator Mitchell to give in to the entreaties of the Taoiseach and the Prime Minister to head this arms decommissioning group. Now, there's any easy job for you. *[Laughter.]* You know, in Ireland I understand there's a—our American country music is very popular. Garth Brooks said the other day he sold more records in Ireland than any other place in the world outside America. So I told Senator Mitchell today that—he was telling me what a wonderful day we had yesterday in Derry and Belfast and what a wonderful day we had today in Dublin, and I said, “Yes, now you get to go to work.” I said, “This reminds me of that great country song ‘I Got the Gold Mine and You Got the Shaft.’” *[Laughter]* But if anybody can bring out more gold, George Mitchell can.

I want to thank the Taoiseach for the courage he showed in working with the Prime Minister of Great Britain, from the day he took office, taking up from his predecessor, Albert Reynolds, right through this remarkable breakthrough that he and Prime Minister Major made on the twin tracks that he helped to forge just 2 days ago. This is an astonishing development really because it is the first formulation anyone has come up with that permits all views to be heard, all voices to speak, all issues to be dealt with, without requiring people to give up the positions they have taken at the moment. We are very much in your debt.

This has been an experience like none I have ever had before. Yesterday John Hume, who's joined us, took me home to Derry with him. And I thought to myself, all my life “Danny Boy” has been my favorite song; I never thought I'd get to go there to hear it. But thanks to John, I did.

And then we were, before, in Belfast. And all of you I'm sure were so moved by those two children who introduced me, reading excerpts from the letters. You know, I've got thousands and thousands of letters from Irish children telling me what peace means to them. One thing I am convinced of as I leave here: that there is a global hunger among young people for their parents to put down the madness of war in favor of their childhood.

I received this letter from a teenager right here in Dublin. I thought I would read it to you, to make the point better than I could. This is just an excerpt: “With your help, the chance is given to reason and to reasonable people, so that the peace in my country becomes reality. What is lost is impossible to bring back. Children who were killed are gone forever. No one can bring them back, but for all those who survive these sufferings, there is future.”

The young person from Dublin who wrote me that was Zlata Filipovic, the young teenager from Bosnia who is now living here, who wrote her wonderful diary that captured the imagination of people all over the world.

I am honored that at this moment in the history of the world the United States has had the great good fortune to stand for the future of children in Ireland, in Bosnia, in the Middle East, in Haiti, and on the toughest streets of our own land. And I thank you here in Ireland for taking your stand for those children's future as well.

Let me say in closing that in this 150th anniversary of the Great Famine, I would like everyone in the world to pay tribute to Ireland for coming out of the famine with perhaps a greater sense of compassion for the fate of people the world over than any other nation. I said today in my speech to the Parliament that there had not been a single, solitary day, not one day, since 1958 when someone representing the Government of Ireland was not somewhere in the world trying to aid the cause of peace. I think there is no other nation on Earth that can make that claim.

And as I leave you, I feel so full of hope for the situation here in Ireland and so much gratitude for you, for what you have given to us. And I leave you with these words, which I found as I was walking out the door from the Ambassador's residence. The Ambassador made it possible for Hillary and me to spend a few moments this evening with Seamus Heaney and his wife, since I have been running around the country quoting him for 2 days. *[Laughter]* I might say, without his permission. *[Laughter]* And he gave Hillary an inscribed copy of his book “The Cure at Troy.” And as I skimmed through it, I found these words, with which I leave you:

Now it's high water mark
And floodtide in the heart

And time to go . . .
What's left to say?

Suspect too much sweet talk
But never close your mind.
It was a fortunate wind
That blew me here. I leave
Half-ready to believe
That a crippled trust might walk
And the half-true rhyme is love.

Thank you, and God bless you.

I thought I had done something for a moment
to offend the Taoiseach—he was forcing me on
water instead of wine. [*Laughter*]

Let me now, on behalf of every American
here present, bathed in the generosity and the
hospitality of Ireland, offer this toast to the
Taoiseach and Mrs. Bruton and to the wonderful
people of this great Republic.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 8:40
p.m. at Dublin Castle. In his remarks, he referred
to U.S. Ambassador to Ireland Jean Kennedy
Smith and Mayors Richard M. Daley of Chicago,
IL, Richard Riordan of Los Angeles, CA, and Tom
Murphy of Pittsburgh, PA.

Remarks to Troops in Baumholder, Germany *December 2, 1995*

General Joulwan, General Nash, General
Crouch, Secretary West. A special word of
greeting to America's good friend Chancellor
Kohl, who has been a wonderful partner to our
country, with great thanks to Germany for their
partnership with this fine unit.

I am immensely proud to be here today with
the men and women of the 1st Armored Division.
You truly are America's Iron Soldiers. Previous
generations of Iron Soldiers have answered our
Nation's call with legendary skill and bravery.
Each time before, it was a call to war. From
North Africa to Italy, they helped freedom
triumph over tyranny in World War II. Then
for 20 years, their powerful presence here stood
down the Soviet threat and helped to bring
victory in the cold war. And just 4 years ago,
when Saddam Hussein attacked Kuwait, the 1st
Armored Division's awesome power turned back
Iraq and protected the security of the Persian
Gulf. I know many of you were there. But I
would like to remind you that in just 89 hours
of combat, you destroyed 440 enemy tanks, 485
armored personnel carriers, 190 pieces of artillery,
and 137 air defense guns. You should be
very proud of that remarkable record.

Now America summons you to service again,
this time not with a call to war but a call to
peace. The leaders of Bosnia, Croatia, and
Serbia have agreed to end 4 long years of war
and atrocities. They have asked for our help
to implement their peace agreement. It is in
our Nation's interest and consistent with our

values to see that this peace succeeds and
endures. And we are counting on you, the men
and women of Task Force Eagle, to get that
job done.

For 3 years I refused to send our American
forces into Bosnia where they could have been
pulled into war. But I do want you to go there
on a mission of peace. After speaking to your
commanders and looking at all of you and listening
to you, there is not a doubt in my mind this
task force is ready to roll. Your mission:
to help people exhausted from war make good
on the peace they have chosen, the peace they
have asked you to help them uphold.

Just 2 weeks ago in Dayton, Ohio, the warring
parties in Bosnia agreed to put down their arms,
to pull back their armies and their heavy weapons,
to hold free elections, to start rebuilding
their homes, their towns, and their lives. But
they need help to do that, and they have asked
America and our NATO allies and other willing
countries to provide it.

They need that help because, after nearly 4
years of terrible brutality, trust is in short supply
in Bosnia, and they all trust you to do the job
right. Each side wants NATO to help them live
up to the commitments they've made, to make
sure each army withdraws behind the separation
line and stays there, to maintain the cease-fire
so that the war does not start again, and give
all the parties the confidence they need to keep
their word and also to give them the trust that
the other side will keep its word as well.