

ALD2/2/16/12/1/72

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

May 8, 1998

Lord John Alderdice
Alliance Party
88 University Street
Belfast BT7 1HE

Dear Lord Alderdice:

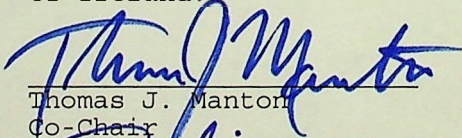
We, as Co-Chairs of the Congressional Ad-Hoc Committee for Irish Affairs and Chair of the Friends of Ireland, write to congratulate you on the proposed Northern Ireland peace accord unveiled in Belfast on Good Friday. We urge you to continue to lend your leadership to all the people of Ireland as they prepare for the referendum scheduled for May 22nd. We commend you for your ability to craft a fair document which takes into consideration the ideas and perspectives of all parties at the peace table.

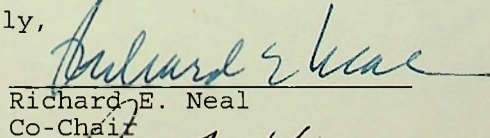
The island of Ireland has been plagued with hate and violence for far too long. The historic, spiritual and emotional event of Good Friday illustrates that the chance for lasting peace and justice is real. It is now up to the people of Ireland, both north and south, to make this peace a reality by embracing the proposed peace document by exercising their right of consent.

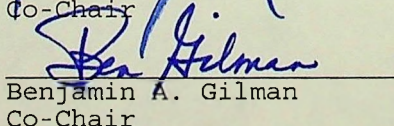
As the referendum date draws closer, we ask that you continue to work with all those in your party to ensure strong support of the accord you and other party leaders labored over for more than twenty-one months. A democratic process is key to ensuring that peace and justice prevail in Northern Ireland.

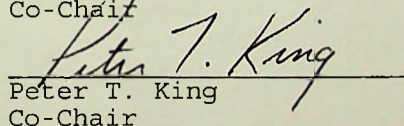
We stand ready to assist you in any manner we can to ensure the proposed peace accord is approved. We look forward to working with you in the future on issues effecting all the people of Ireland.

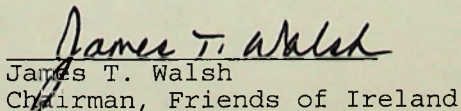
Sincerely,


Thomas J. Manton
Co-Chair


Richard E. Neal
Co-Chair


Benjamin A. Gilman
Co-Chair


Peter T. King
Co-Chair


James T. Walsh
Chairman, Friends of Ireland