



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

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REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, JOHN A. VOLPE
ON ARRIVAL IN SHANNON, IRELAND, ON JUNE 5, 1969, ENROUTE TO THE 1969 PARIS
INTERNATIONAL AIR SHOW IN PARIS, FRANCE

Ladies and Gentlemen:

My stopover in Shannon is regrettably short, but my interest in Ireland has been long. As Governor of Massachusetts, with its large Irish-American population, I became well aware how uniquely Irish energies have contributed to the development of the United States. President Kennedy put it well: "Ireland has never been a rich and bountiful country, but throughout the centuries, its contributions have been rich and bountiful to the world."

President Nixon himself is proud of his Irish ancestry. On the paternal side, James Nixon emigrated from Ireland in about 1740; on the maternal side, Thomas Milhouse left County Kildare in 1729.

The Irish in Ireland play an important role in world affairs today -- for example in peacekeeping and disarmament. I am aware of the new ideas and modern attitudes in your historic country, and I hope to have the opportunity to return and observe both the bustling pace of change and the quiet enchantment of the countryside.

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