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toil just as passionately as our forebears to bring about a better life for all Americans.

And so to paraphrase some wise Irishman or woman, may we govern—may we who govern have the hindsight to know where we've been, the insight to know where we are, and the foresight to know where we are headed.

Taoiseach, thank you so much for being here, and your lovely wife and the entire delegation. Happy St. Patrick's Day to all of you. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:27 p.m. at the U.S. Capitol. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Brian Cowen of Ireland and his wife Mary. Audio was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Message to the Congress Certifying Exports to the People's Republic of China
March 17, 2009

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the provisions of section 1512 of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Public Law 105–261), I hereby certify to the Congress that the export of fine grain graphite to be used for solar cell applications and for the fabrication of components used in electronic and semiconductor fabrication, and two dual-motor, dual-shaft mixers to be used to produce carbon fiber and epoxy prepregs for the commercial airline industry is not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry, and that the material and equipment, including any indirect technical benefit that could be derived from these exports, will not measurably improve the missile or space launch capabilities of the People's Republic of China.

BARACK OBAMA

The White House,
March 17, 2009.

Remarks at a Saint Patrick's Day Reception
March 17, 2009

The President. Well, good evening, everybody.

Audience members. Good evening!

The President. And welcome to St. Patrick's Day at the White House. I notice that the Boston crowd is a little rambunctious tonight. How about Chicago? That's what I'm talking about. [*Laughter*] It seems particularly fitting that we gather tonight in a house that was, after all, designed and built by an Irish architect.

And we've had a wonderful day that began by meeting with a strong friend of the United States, *Taoiseach* Brian Cowen, who presented us with a gift of shamrocks from the people of Ireland, a symbol of the enduring ties between our nations and a reminder of the everlasting promise of spring. And I'm so glad that we've gotten a chance to know him and his lovely wife Mary, who've just been entirely gracious today. And we're very grateful to them. As it turns out, the *Taoiseach* and I have something in common—I've mentioned this in previous speeches—both he and my great-great-great-grandfather on my mother's side hail from County Offaly.

And I've also had the pleasure of meeting First Minister Peter Robinson and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness of Northern Ireland, two men who have stood together to chart a historic path towards peace. They are with us tonight and deserve an extraordinary round of applause.

And I've just met with Sir Hugh Orde, the Chief Constable of Northern Ireland's Police Service, who is leading the efforts to bring those