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Message from Charles J. Haughey, T.D., Taoiseach
to the Sirius 150 Commemoration Committee

I am very pleased to send this message of support for today's celebration of the 150th anniversary of the epic voyage of the Sirius from Passage West to New York. This historic voyage, made for the first time under the power of steam, opened up a new era of trans-atlantic travel. It holds a unique position in the annals of not only Irish, but world, maritime history. It is yet another example of a small country like Ireland making a significant contribution to progress.

and Today, a journey of this distance can be made in a matter of hours in comparative luxury. Yet there is still something captivating about the thought of crossing the Atlantic in the way the Sirius did. It highlights once again Ireland's long and illustrious maritime tradition and is an enduring source of pride and inspiration to all who *have* a love of the sea in all its aspects.

I am particularly pleased to note that the Sirius was crewed on that journey *by* ^{mainly} ~~mostly~~ Irish seamen and that, significantly, they *were* ^{led} ~~led~~ by a native of Passage West, Captain Richard Roberts. *It is* ~~hope~~ that Ireland as an island nation will always maintain this fine tradition of ~~Irish~~ seamanship.

~~In conclusion,~~ I would like to convey my appreciation, congratulations and best wishes to all those who have worked so hard in organising this commemoration.

Charles J. Haughey, T.D.,
Taoiseach.

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*very forward
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