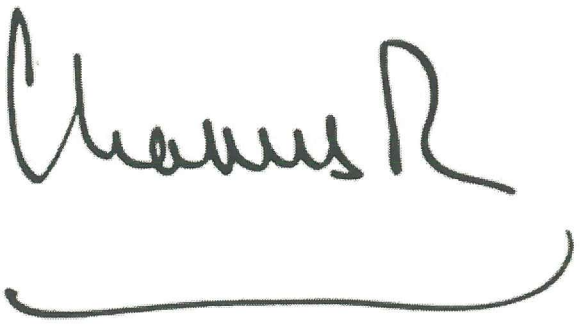
BUCKINGHAM PALACE

The British-Irish Council is one of the key institutions to emerge from the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement. As the UK Government hosts this important and timely Summit, I send you my warmest good wishes for a successful and productive meeting.

Bringing together the UK Government and Irish Government, alongside the Devolved Governments and Crown Dependencies, your gathering represents a unique network of relationships, encompassing the shared interests and values of these islands.

Your discussions today on how our islands can secure sustainable local growth are just one of the many examples of those relationships at their best. The Council has enormous potential to continue to promote shared interests and aspirations, from the environment to diversity and our shared prosperity. As we approach the 25th anniversary of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement, your deliberations are all the more important.

I wish you a most constructive and fruitful Summit.