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Every Eisenhower Fellow will tell you of the inherent trust and respect for other Fellows as a result of their shared fellowship experience. Often, this opens the doors for friendship, business deals, and other collaborative projects. Occasionally, it is this connection that allows for tremendous change. Such was the case in the Northern Ireland peace process.

Paddy Teahon and David Lavery met each other on the 1989 Eisenhower Fellowships' Single Region Program. Nearly ten years later, the two would find themselves coming together again as they participated in the multi-party political negotiations that would lead to the Good Friday peace agreement of 1998. Teahon, serving as the secretary to the Taoiseach's Office (the Irish Prime Minister's Office), and Lavery, who was Principal Private Secretary to Northern Ireland's First Minister, drew on the trust they developed as Fellows to keep the negotiations from crumbling.

The peace talks, which were chaired by U.S. Senator George Mitchell, began in June 1996 and involved all of Northern Ireland's political Parties, including several closely associated with terrorist organizations. The talks lasted almost two years, concluding with the historic Good Friday Agreement of 10 April 1998. In their capacity as conference delegates representing the Irish and British Governments, Teahon and Lavery credit their fellowship experience for giving them the foundation of mutual trust upon which they were able to build to stay the course and see a successful negotiation conclude.

Teahon and Lavery have since played a key role in the re-establishment of democratic institutions of government within Northern Ireland and the sustaining of good relations between the Northern Ireland Administration and the Irish Government. Teahon, as principal advisor to Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern, and Lavery, who was appointed Principal Private Secretary to Northern Ireland's First Minister, The Right Honorable David Trimble, maintained open channels of communication between the Prime Ministers' offices in Dublin and Belfast. When EF Chairman General Colin Powell awarded the Irish Fellows with the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2008, he recalled President Eisenhower's vision: "Dwight Eisenhower said that the world must 'avoid becoming a community of dreadful fear and hate, and be, instead, a proud confederation of mutual trust and respect.' Through your words and your actions, you promote his vision of a world where dialogue leads to understanding, and understanding leads to peace and prosperity."

Leaders bettering the world around them.