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Governor Hugh Carey's reaction to President Carter's

Statement on Northern Ireland

In an interview with Judith Michaelson of the New York Post, (31-8-1977) Governor Carey stated that he had worked closely with the State Department - as well as with Senator Moynihan, Senator Kennedy and Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill - to get President Carter involved. Carey said that although he didn't speak directly to Carter about Northern Ireland - "You never go directly to the President" - the President's statement came as no surprise to him.

"I knew it by heart", he said, "I participated in principle and in prose".

The Governor said he viewed the President's call for a form of government which "will command widespread acceptance throughout both parts of the community" as support for 'power-sharing' or 'a partnership' between the warring Protestant and Catholic factions.

The report added that Carey's initial contact at the State Department was Matthew Nimitz, who had been his own transition chief and is now Counsel to Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

Kevin Cahill, an influential aide to Governor Carey and President of the Irish-American Historical Society, was reported as saying: "It's gratifying to see the first President since Woodrow Wilson speaking out on Northern Ireland, and President Carter is talking about jobs, not just rhetoric".

(N.Y. "Daily News", 1/9/77)