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Commenting tonight on the statement on Northern Ireland made today by President Jimmy Carter, the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. James Callaghan MP, said:

"I welcome President Carter's statement. It shows a very real human concern for the people of Northern Ireland and an understanding of the reality of the situation in saying that a permanent solution to the problem can come only from the people who live there. I am glad to have his support for the establishment of a government there which will command widespread acceptance throughout both parts of the community.

I welcome especially the President's rejection of violence and his support for peaceful means to find a solution. The over-whelming majority in Northern Ireland have also rejected violence. Violence will not achieve its purpose. It simply postpones the time when better days can return.

I welcome too the President's willingness to support continued investment which will provide jobs for the long-suffering people of the Province. We will continue to work together with the United States and our other major trading partners to attract new investment and Mr. Roy Mason the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland will visit the United States in October for this purpose."

10 Downing Street,  
Whitehall,  
London SW1

30 August 1977



Text of Statement by President Carter

Throughout our history, Americans have rightly recalled the contributions men and women from many countries have made to the development of the United States. Among the greatest contributions have been those of the British and Irish people, Protestant and Catholic alike. We have close ties of friendship with both parts of Ireland, and with Great Britain.

It is natural that Americans are deeply concerned about the continuing conflict and violence in Northern Ireland. We know the overwhelming majority of the people there reject the bomb and the bullet. The United States wholeheartedly supports peaceful means for finding a just solution that involves both parts of the community of Northern Ireland, protects human rights and guarantees freedom from discrimination - a solution that the people in Northern Ireland, as well as the Governments of Great Britain and Ireland can support. Violence cannot resolve Northern Ireland's problems: it only increases them, and solves nothing.

We hope that all those engaged in violence will renounce this course and commit themselves to peaceful pursuit of legitimate goals. The path of reconciliation, cooperation and peace is the only course that can end the human suffering and lead to a better future for all the people of Northern Ireland. I ask all Americans to refrain from supporting, with financial or other aid, organisations whose involvement, direct or indirect, in this violence delays the day when the people of Northern Ireland can live and work together in harmony, free from fear. Federal law enforcement agencies will continue to apprehend and prosecute any who violate U.S. laws in this regard.

U.S. Government policy on the Northern Ireland issue has long been one of impartiality, and that is how it will remain. We support the establishment of a form of government in Northern Ireland which will command widespread acceptance throughout both



parts of the community. However, we have no intention of telling the parties how this might be achieved. The only permanent solution will come from the people who live there. There are no solutions that outsiders can impose.

At the same time, the people of Northern Ireland should know that they have our complete support in their quest for a peaceful and just society. It is a tribute to Northern Ireland's hard-working people that the area has continued to attract investment, despite the violence committed by a small minority. This is to be welcomed, since investment and other programs to create jobs will assist in ensuring a healthy economy and combating unemployment.

It is still true that a peaceful settlement would contribute immeasurably to stability in Northern Ireland and so enhance the prospects for increased investment. In the event of such a settlement, the U.S. Government would be prepared to join with others to see how additional job-creating investment could be encouraged, to the benefit of all the people of Northern Ireland.

I admire the many true friends of Northern Ireland in this country who speak out for peace. Emotions run high on this subject and the easiest course is not to stand up for conciliation. I place myself firmly on the side of those who seek peace and reject violence in Northern Ireland.

30 August 1977