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Reagan Administration and Northern Ireland *File: 8/8/3*
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In recent years there have been a number of helpful statements on the problem of Northern Ireland from the Reagan Administration.

Some of the encouraging elements in these statements may be broadly defined as follows:

- support for reconciliation between the two Irish political traditions
- support for co-operation between the Irish and British Governments on Northern Ireland.
- general support for the work of the New Ireland Forum together with the hope that it will strengthen the co-operation and further the reconciliation referred to above
- encouragement to U.S. firms to invest in Ireland, North and South in ways which promote prosperity for both traditions
- opposition to and action against any support for violence in Ireland originating in the U.S.

The following excerpts from statements by President Reagan and his Administration illustrate these themes:

- "We believe a lasting solution can be found only in a process of reconciliation between the two Irish political traditions and between Britain and Ireland. The United States welcomes the efforts of the Irish and British governments in widening the framework of their co-operations to this end".

Letter to the Taoiseach from President Reagan, 1 Dec. 1981.

- "This Administration will maintain the United States commitment to facilitate growth of additional job creating investment - investment that will benefit all the people of Ireland. In the meantime, we encourage the American private sector to continue to assist in creating more job opportunities in Ireland".
 - Statement by President Reagan 17 March, 1982.
- "We support your personal mission in America to end the tragically misguided support of some here for terrorist elements in Northern Ireland..... we are especially heartened by your own efforts as well as your colleagues' in the New Ireland Forum and the British government, to seek a democratic and peaceful reconciliation of Ireland's diverse traditions".
 - President Reagan's Address to the Taoiseach at the White House, 16 March, 1984.
- "The Deputy Secretary applauded the hard work and effort that had gone into preparation of the Report. The Deputy Secretary assured the Foreign Minister that we will give the Report full and careful study. He expressed our hope that the Forum process and the Forum Report will strengthen Anglo-Irish co-operation

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in resolving the Northern Ireland problem and in furthering reconciliation between the two communities".

- Statement issued by the Department of State following a meeting between the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the United States Deputy Secretary of State (Kenneth Dam) on 4 May, 1984.

These positive elements in the Administration's approach to Northern Ireland have been accompanied by a repeated emphasis, in the President's own words, that "it is not for the United States to chart the course others must follow" in resolving the problem.

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29 May, 1984.