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References to Northern Ireland in Speeches

made by President Reagan during his Visit

of 1 - 4 June, 1984.

1. Speech on arrival at Shannon Airport on
1 June, 1984:

"Americans are people of peace. We have known and suffered the trauma of war and witnessed the fruits of reconciliation. That is why we pray tolerance and reconciliation will one day unite Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland in a spirit of communion and community and that is why those who advocate violence or engage in terrorism in Northern Ireland will never be welcome in the United States."

(page 4 of Irish Press, Saturday, 2 June, 1984).

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2. Speech at Conferring Ceremony in University College, Galway on 2 June, 1984:

"I'd like to take this moment to congratulate your distinguished President of University College, Galway, Dr. O hEocha, for all he has done and is doing to overcome the spiral of violence which has plagued Northern Ireland. As Chairman of the New Ireland Forum, you helped to open doors of opportunity for peace and reconciliation.

Progress will depend on other responsible leaders, in both parts of Ireland and in Great Britain, following your example. As far as the United States is concerned, we applaud all those who strive for constructive political co-operation and renounce violence. We pray that men and women of good will in all parts of this land can, through mutual consent and consultation, find a way of bringing peace and harmony to this island that means so much to us. "

(page 10, Irish Times, Monday, 4 June) /.....

3. Speech at State Banquet hosted by Taoiseach in Dublin Castle on 3 June, 1984:

"Yet, with our two countries so close, there are some influences we are not proud of. I believe I speak for all Americans of Irish descent who now hold elected office - men and women of both political parties - when I join you in condemning any misguided American who supports terrorists in Northern Ireland. I want to offer my thanks to Prime Minister FitzGerald for his strong stand on this issue. When he last visited Washington he articulated a message of conviction and courage, and by doing so he just may have saved some innocent lives.

Oscar Wilde had a comment on war that is also applicable to terrorism, 'When it is looked upon as vulgar,' Wilde said, 'it will cease to be popular.' I can't think of anything more vulgar than Americans providing anyone in Ireland the means of killing his fellow men.

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The American people over-whelmingly support peaceful efforts to reconcile the differences between the two traditions on this island. We pray there will be a new dawn, and that it will come soon, when both Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland can live in a peaceful and just society, free from the nightmare of intimidation and violence.

We are following, with keen interest, the efforts your Government has been making and we wish you success. We especially welcome the hard work and thought that went into the New Ireland Forum's report. We hope it will strengthen Anglo-Irish co-operation in resolving the Northern Ireland problem through a peaceful reconciliation between Protestants and Catholics."

(Page 20, Irish Times, Monday, 4 June).

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4. Address to the Joint Session of both Houses of the Oireachtas on 4 June, 1984:

"Our visit is a joyous moment and it will remain so; but this should not keep us from serious work or serious words. This afternoon, I want to speak directly on a few points.

I know many of you recall with sadness the tragic events of last Christmas: the 5 people killed and 92 injured after a terrorist bomb went off in Harrods of London. Just the day before, a Garda recruit, Gary Sheehan, and Private Patrick Kelly, a young Irish soldier with 4 children, were slain by terrorist bullets. These two events, occurring 350 miles apart - one in Ireland, one in Britain - demonstrated the pitiless, indiscriminate nature of terrorist violence, a violence evil to its core and contemptible in all its forms. And it showed that the problems of Northern Ireland are taking a toll on the people of both Britain and Ireland, North and South.

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Yet the trouble in the North affects more than just these two great isles. When he was in America in March, your Prime Minister courageously denounced the support a tiny number of misguided Americans give to these terrorist groups. I joined him in that denunciation, as did the vast majority of Irish-Americans.

I repeat today: There is no place for the crude, cowardly violence of terrorism - not in Britain, not in Ireland, not in Northern Ireland. All sides should have one goal before them; let us state it simply and directly: to end the violence, to end it completely, to end it now.

The terrorism, the sense of crisis that has existed in Northern Ireland has been costly to all. But, let us not overlook legitimate cause for hope in the events of the last few months. As you know, active dialogue between the governments here in Dublin and in London is continuing. There is also the constructive work of the New Ireland Forum. The Forum's recent report has been praised; it has also been criticised; but the important thing is that men of peace are being heard and their message of reconciliation discussed.

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The position of the United States in all of this is clear: We must not and will not interfere in Irish matters, nor prescribe to you solutions or formulas. But I want you to know we pledge to you our good will and support, and we are with you as you work toward peace.

I am not being overly optimistic when I say today I believe you will work out a peaceful and democratic reconciliation of Ireland's two different traditions and communities. Besides being a land whose concern for freedom and self-determination is legendary, Ireland is also a land synonymous with hope. It is this sense of hope that saw you through famine and war; that sent so many Irish men and women abroad to seek new lives and build new nations; that gave the world the saints and scholars who spoke of human dignity and freedom and put much of the spark of my own nation's quest for independence, and that of other nations."

(Page 8, Irish Times, Tuesday, 5 June).