

An Chartlann Náisiúnta
National Archives

Reference Code:	2022/47/242
Creator(s):	Department of Foreign Affairs
Accession Conditions:	Open
Copyright:	National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

EMBASSY OF IRELAND, WASHINGTON
FAX COVER SHEET

Tel: 202-4623939 Fax: 202-2325993 E-Mail: adrianirl@aol.com

Date: 16 February, 2000 Pages: 2

To: A-I Division

For: Clare O'Flaherty From: Adrian O'Neill

c/c: Press Section; GIS; Mr McKee;

Re: Northern Ireland - reference in South Carolina debate

The subject of Northern Ireland was raised briefly at Tuesday night's debate among the 3 Republican candidates in the South Carolina primary - Governor George W. Bush, Senator John McCain and the rank outsider, former Ambassador Alan Keyes. The debate was moderated by Larry King of CNN.

As you will see, McCain made the most positive reference to the peace process commending President Clinton and Senator Clinton for "a fine job". Governor Bush said "the Mitchell effort was a good effort but its falling apart and ---- but I think we ought to work to keep the peace".

END

cc Secretary Gallagher
London, Belfast
Counsellor A-I

©DFA/2022/47/242

Extract from Republican Debate
South Carolina, 15 February

KING: Should the United States be involved in trying to settle -- not with arms -- disputes?

KEYES: Yes, absolutely. We should show that leadership.

KING: We should have been involved in Ireland and England and...

KEYES: I think it's part of the role we play, given our position in the world, yes. Where we can play it constructively, we ought to do it.

MCCAIN: I give Senator George Mitchell and the Clinton administration credit for a fine job in Northern Ireland.

Not any place else in the world that I can think of. But sure we should.

And again, I want to point out that being made world's number one superpower has great luxuries, it also has great responsibilities and we have to understand those.

KING: Will you...

BUSH: Actually, unfortunately, the Mitchell effort was a good effort but it's falling apart and -- but I think we ought to work to keep the peace. And the danger is is that a president who worries about his standing in the polls will try to impose an American solution. For example, in the Middle East, we can't have that. In order for there to be a real peace, both parties must agree to the terms, they must come to an agreement amongst themselves. And so, the role of the United States is to encourage and to mediate.

KING: Are you saying that as president the polls won't matter?

BUSH: They shouldn't matter. I mean, I'm talking about whether or not somebody, you know, is trying to earn a Nobel Peace Prize; and, therefore, take our friends and demand that our friends accept something that's unacceptable to their people. We can't be a -- we can't dictate the terms of the peace and we must lead the process to achieve peace.

****

©DFA/2022/47/242