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**Title:** Text of a statement issued by the Government Information Bureau on behalf of the Department of Foreign Affairs. The statement details suggestions made to members of the American government by Dr Patrick Hillery, Minister for Foreign Affairs, that Britain should be encouraged to adopt a political rather than a military approach in Northern Ireland.

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It has been reported that the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. P. J. Hillery, T.D., made no suggestions to the American Secretary of State, Mr. William P. Rogers, when he met him on February 3rd last concerning what action the United States Government might take in regard to the Northern Ireland situation. This is untrue. Among other things, Dr. Hillery asked Mr. Rogers to indicate, on behalf of the U.S. Government, to the British Government that their policy of seeking a solution by military means in Northern Ireland was no way to solve the problem and was an old-fashioned and self-perpetuating procedure. He further made it clear that he was not asking Governments, friendly to both Ireland and Britain, to adopt a hostile attitude in relation to Britain but rather suggesting that they should approach the matter on a friendly basis with a view to influencing the British Government to act with greater wisdom.

This does not amount to requesting intervention, in the technical sense of that term, but indicates that Dr. Hillery would welcome, short of intervention, anything that the United States Government, as one friendly to Britain might feel able to do with a view to encouraging Britain to substitute a political for a military approach to the problem. Mr. Rogers was reluctant to agree to this request at that meeting, unless it should also be made by the British Government, on the ground that any such action on his part would amount to taking sides and this the United States Government did not want to do.