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Andrew Shepherd talking on 1.30 news, Tuesday, 23 August, 1977.

Mr. Carter has been promising <sup>a</sup> definitive statement since his victorious election campaign last year and he <sup>is</sup> expected to come out strongly in favour of power-sharing as the only form of government policy likely to achieve peace in the Six Counties. The emphasis on power-sharing is deliberately timed to follow the British Labour Government's controversial voting alliance with the anti-power sharing official unionist MPs in the House of Commons. Preliminary drafts of Mr. Carter's statement have already been given to the Irish and British Governments for their comments. The signs so far, I understand, are that the Government here is fairly satisfied with this statement but that the British are a little less happy. The main reason for British doubts, and it is not yet clear how strong these doubts are, that they centre on another crucial aspect of the President's thinking. Mr. Carter plans to spell out that the Irish Government ~~was~~ is entitled to be consulted about what happens in the North. Mr. Carter is not pushing for any early revival of the abortive council of Ireland which the Sunningdale Agreement tried to set up but he believes that Dublin has a right to be consulted on further political changes in the North and to give its own comments and advice on developments there as they happen. The other main plank in the Carter platform is an offer of American aid for industry in the Six Counties. The shape of this aid though is not yet clear. It is not known whether Mr. Carter will offer Government money or instead encourage American business to open factories to cut down the long dole queues in the North, but he will make it clear that he does not plan to begin his aid programme unless and until there are clear signs <sup>that</sup> of the North's politicians are ready to make real progress towards a workable peace agreement. One reason behind this statement is strong pressure for a clear policy for America's powerful Irish politicians, such as Edward Kennedy, the Senator, and <sup>Mr.</sup> O'Neill, speaker of the House of Representatives. Mr. Carter urgently needs Mr. O'Neill's support in order to push many of his internal American policies through Congress. Earlier this year the President spoke out against American aid for the Northern Government and the American-Irish politicians urged him to bring in a more positive peace policy and that is now on the way.