

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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me
28/10
He reviewed
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1. THE WHITE HOUSE PROVIDED THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE FINAL APPROVED TEXT OF STATEMENT, CONTAINED IN A LETTER SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT TO CONGRESSMAN BIAGGI. THE LETTER HAS BEEN RELEASED BY THE CONGRESSMAN.

2. BEGIN TEXT. DEAR CONGRESSMAN BIAGGI: ENDING THE TRAGIC CONFLICT IN NORTHERN IRELAND IS IMPORTANT TO THIS COUNTRY BECAUSE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL MORAL ISSUES INVOLVED AND BECAUSE OF THE STRONG TIES SO MANY AMERICANS HAVE WITH IRELAND.

AS PRESIDENT I FORMULATED THIS COUNTRY'S FIRST COMPREHENSIVE POLICY DEALING WITH THE ISSUE OF NORTHERN IRELAND. I SPOKE OUT ON THIS EARLY IN MY ADMINISTRATION. SPECIFICALLY, I CONDEMNED THE USE OF VIOLENCE AND STATED THAT A PERMANENT SOLUTION WILL COME ONLY FROM THE CONSENT OF ALL THE PARTIES. I HAVE GONE ON RECORD WITH A FIRM OFFER FOR INVESTMENT AND JOB-CREATION ASSISTANCE FOR THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND ONCE A SETTLEMENT IS ACHIEVED, THEREBY PROVIDING PEACEFUL INCENTIVES TO BOTH SIDES.

I HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE LEADERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND AND OF GREAT BRITAIN TO HELP PROMOTE AN EQUITABLE SETTLEMENT OF THE CONFLICT. IN RESPONSE TO MY INVITATION PRIME MINISTER LYNCH VISITED WITH ME IN THE WHITE HOUSE IN NOVEMBER 1979. ADDITIONALLY I HAVE BEEN IN CONTINUOUS TOUCH WITH THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER TO URGE GREATER PROGRESS TOWARD A PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND ISSUE.

AS I SAID IN AUGUST 1977 -- WE HOPE THAT ALL THOSE ENGAGED IN VIOLENCE WILL RENOUNCE THIS COURSE AND COMMIT THEMSELVES TO PEACEFUL PURSUIT OF LEGITIMATE GOALS. THE PATH OF RECONCILIATION, COOPERATION AND PEACE IS THE ONLY COURSE THAT CAN END THE HUMAN SUFFERING AND LEAD TO A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND. SINCERELY, JIMMY CARTER. END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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