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Vice President Bush and Ireland

Bush has not previously been voted for his interest in Irish issues. His main public statements in relation to Ireland has come in interviews he gave to Dermot Mullane of RTE, and to Brian Barron of the BBC, before he departed on his European tour. In there he took a cautious line, stressing that the US role in relation to Northern Ireland was to oppose violence and encourage discussion and negotiation, but not actively to intervene in what was not directly the responsibility of the US. On the question of the results of the general election in Northern Ireland he refused to comment. When asked whether he would urge Mrs. Thatcher to take a new initiative on Northern Ireland, he said he would not, but that he supported the resumption of high level Anglo-Irish contacts.

See texts of interviews and C.V. attached.

Anglo-Irish Section
Department of Foreign Affairs
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