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Press Statement by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney

On behalf of the people of Canada, I have congratulated Prime Ministers Margaret Thatcher and Garret FitzGerald for their courageous initiative for peace in Northern Ireland which culminated in the signature on November 15, 1985 at Hillsborough Castle of an agreement on Northern Ireland. I have sent messages to Prime Ministers Thatcher and FitzGerald expressing Canadian support for the initiative.

Canada has close historical and political links with both Ireland and the United Kingdom; the great contribution of both countries to Canadian society and culture cannot be overstressed. Thus, I am pleased to learn that our friends in Ireland and the United Kingdom who both uphold the same democratic values and hope for peace that we cherish in Canada, have taken a bold step to try to end the discord which has torn apart Northern Ireland for too long.

We know there are opponents to this agreement, but now there is a framework for peace, which Canada strongly supports.

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When I met Dr. FitzGerald in Ottawa last May, I stressed Canada's support for any solution which is founded on tolerance and respect for the concerns of the people of Northern Ireland.

The Anglo-Irish Agreement is a tangible step forward. Canada applauds the initiative of Mrs. Thatcher and Dr. FitzGerald and we will continue to give our wholehearted encouragement to those working towards a durable solution in Northern Ireland.

OTTAWA,

November 20, 1985.