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*Transcript -> over***INTERVIEW WITH PRIME MINISTER HAUGHEY**

CHARLES GIBSON, ABC TELEVISION NETWORK: It's now 7:25 and we're continuing our conversation with Charles Haughey, the Prime Minister of Ireland. Thank you for being with us again this morning. Earlier in that discussion in Steve Fox's piece those young people were talking about coming to the United States. A lot of them come to the United States illegally don't they?

HAUGHEY: Yes, that's one of the problems and indeed I hope to avail of this opportunity to talk to the President and indeed to people on the Hill about that very problem. We have a large number--many thousands of young Irish people here in the United States who are here with illegal status and it's very unsatisfactory for them because of that position they can be exploited in regard to accomodation and regard to employment and I intend to mount a very major personal political campaign with diplomatic backup to see if we can persuade the people on Capitol Hill to do something to improve their situation.

GIBSON: Do you want them sent back or do you want their situation improved here?

HAUGHEY: Well I'd like to think that they're here really for work experience. Those young people you are talking to will probably come to the United States but I'd like to look on that as a temporary visit, that they're over here to get work experience and to learn new techniques and technologies and new types of business and commerce and so on and that the U.S. would look on them just being here temporarily for that purpose and that they will come back to Ireland with those skills and help build up the economy in Ireland. In the meantime though, we'd like their situation here to be improved so that they won't be subject to any exploitation by anybody.

GIBSON: So much of American's perception of Irish politics revolves around the problems--the relationships between

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Ireland and Northern Ireland and yet in the recent election in which you became Prime Minister that really was very little of an issue as I understand it--it was almost entirely the economy. Why is that?

HAUGHEY: Well first of all the economy looms so large and was so pressing on people's minds and was presenting us with such acute problems--unemployment and immigration, but apart from that early on in the campaign both the outgoing Tisher (?), Prime Minister Dr. Fitzgerald and myself has the more or less public tacid mutual agreement that because the Northern Ireland situation was so intense and so sensitive that we would try and keep it off the political platforms because you know, when anything you might say in any direction in Northern in the heat of an election campaign could result in tragedy and violence.

GIBSON: But so much evolves around the accord. There is now an accord in which Dublin will be consulted on the situation in Northern Ireland, but the British, as I understand it, the British role there is legitimized. Do you support that accord?

HAUGHEY: We--as an incoming government we naturally have to assume the obligations entered into by our predecessors.

GIBSON: Do you support is personally though?

HAUGHEY: Well, I support the work that's going on under the accord, but I have reservations about the constitutional implications of the accord and so far as it would porport to give some sovereignty over part of Ireland to the British government and that I cannot accept. But subject to that constitutional reservation, in so far as the accord is acheiving progress on the ground, it's helping the situation of the nationalist community in Northern Ireland and indeed hopefully the situation of all the people of Northern Ireland then we would fully support that work and carry on with that work.

GIBSON: All right. Mr. Prime Minister, once again, thank you for being with us this morning. I know you have a very full day in Washington and thank you for being with us.

HAUGHEY: Thank you very much indeed.

GIBSON: And take care and a happy St. Patrick's Day again.

HAUGHEY: And as you said yourself yesterday, I understand Ireland is a very beautiful country, come and see us.