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Statement of Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr on the
President's Statement on Northern Ireland

I welcome President Carter's statement on Northern Ireland and endorse fully his expressions of policy.

Only the two communities in Northern Ireland working with the Governments of Ireland and Great Britain can truly resolve the divisions that have existed for so long.

The roots of those deep feelings go back many decades, many centuries, and no instant solutions are available. However, the rejection of violence and the commitment to representative government would be a great stride toward the establishment of a society and an environment that can only produce a healthier climate to live and work in for all the citizens of Northern Ireland.

President Carter is the first American President to speak out and contribute in a positive way. Many politicians on both sides of the Atlantic have tried to fan the emotions that have been enkindled for so long. Such - even from the well-intentioned - can lead only to violence and must be rejected.

I am confident that President Carter's statement on Northern Ireland will receive the overwhelming and enthusiastic endorsement of the House of Representatives.

I applaud him for his leadership.