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President Carter today made a statement on the situation in Northern Ireland in which he called for a just solution involving both sections of the community and supported by the Irish and British Governments. The President undertook that in the event of such a settlement the U.S. Government would be prepared to join with others to see how additional job-creating investment could be encouraged.

President Carter's statement is a constructive development in American relations with Ireland and Britain and reflects the traditional generosity of the American Government and people and their interest in Ireland. The President has placed himself firmly on the side of those distinguished American leaders who, in the President's words, seek peace and reject violence.

It is particularly useful to emphasise that the problems of Northern Ireland have many dimensions, of which any effective and realistic solution must take account. President Carter rightly underlines the importance of finding a just solution by peaceful means which protects human rights, in which both parts of the community in Northern Ireland as well as the Irish and British Governments will be involved.

The Irish Government also welcomes the renewed American commitment to continue vigorously to apprehend and prosecute those who violate U.S. laws in respect of supporting with financial or other aid organisations involved directly or indirectly in violence in Northern Ireland, irrespective of the political or religious sympathies of those involved.

President Carter's statement is a welcome indication of the interest of the U.S. Government in Irish affairs. He has once again made clear the goodwill of the American people to a land for which many Americans have a special affection. He has offered to help. It is for the people of Ireland, North and South, together with the British and Irish Governments, to ensure that his offer is transformed into political and economic progress.