

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

IRELAND



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Governor Reagan's statement on Northern Ireland April 1980

The divisions in Northern Ireland are deep and of long standing. The wounds can be healed only through the good will of reasonable men and women on both sides. Compromises will be needed and these must be arrived at by those involved. It is not for the United States to interfere in this process or prescribe solutions, but rather to urge the parties to come together to work for a solution and to join in condemnation of terrorism by either side.

Peace cannot come from the barrel of a terrorist's gun. Americans should question closely any appeal for funds from groups involved in the conflict to make sure that contributions do not end up in the hands of gun-runners. Further, as terrorists of either side are apprehended and jailed, extradition procedures should not be relaxed on the grounds these are "political" prisoners. Terrorism is just that and must not be allowed to be condoned or excused.