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**Reference Code:** 2019/101/2440

**Creator(s):** Department of Foreign Affairs

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FAX

TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON  
FOR A/SEC GALLAGHER FROM M BURKE

Please see text to follow of foreign policy statement which has been issued by  
the Bush/Quayle campaign in relation to Northern Ireland.

ENDS

12 September 1988

# Bush 88 Quayle

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## FOREIGN POLICY/ NORTHERN IRELAND

### STATEMENT OF VICE PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH

First let me state that I agree that peace and justice for Ireland and Northern Ireland are non-partisan issues that deserve bi-partisan support. Further, I believe that the internal problems facing Ireland can only be solved through the concerted and cooperative efforts of all the people of Ireland.

As President Reagan stated in March, 1986. "In determining the nature of any U.S. Government aid, we must bear in mind that the agenda and timetable for progress in that troubled area are not for us to set. Those directly concerned, the people of both Irish traditions, will chart the course which will, we pray, lead to reconciliation in that troubled land." I fully support this position and would only add that I am deeply concerned over the continuing use of violence as a means of achieving those goals. It is my firm view that senseless violence achieves nothing.

With regard to the McBride Principles, I do not believe that they will solve the long history of employment discrimination nor would they improve the long-term economic outlook for Ireland. It seems to me that you would want to improve the economic and investment climate rather than creating uncertainty and restriction on business. If the Irish can bring about certainty, predictability and safety to their country, then the climate for investment, both foreign and domestic, will be greatly improved.

As President, I will encourage new investment and economic reconstruction in Northern Ireland on the basis of strict equality of opportunity and nondiscrimination in employment. Economic development is one way towards reconciliation as it will bring Irishmen together to work on a common and non-sectarian goal. This may be hard for some but necessary when we look at the future of Ireland.

I strongly support the process of peace and reconciliation established by the Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1985, and I fully subscribe to the bi-partisan, Concurrent Resolution passed by the Congress on December 5, 1985, which stated:

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... That (a) the Congress commends the Government of Ireland and the Government of the United Kingdom for their achievement in reaching an agreement which charts a way towards peace, stability, and an end to violence in Northern Ireland.

(b) The Congress declares its willingness to work with the President in supporting the Anglo-Irish agreement through appropriate United States Assistance, including economic and financial support, to promote the economic and social development of those areas of both parts of Ireland which have suffered most severely from the consequences of the violence of recent years.

I also support the 1986 U.S. commitment to contribute \$120 million in aid over three years to the International Fund for Ireland (IFI). As you know, "...the IFI is an international organization established by the British and Irish Governments with the objectives of promoting economic and social advance and encouraging contact, dialogue and reconciliation throughout Ireland"

As I noted earlier, I am deeply concerned over the continuing senseless violence. I fully support the Irish plank of the Republican Party Platform, which reads, in part, "We share a deep concern for peace and justice in Northern Ireland and condemn all violence and terrorism in that strife-torn land." I stand ready to work with the Congress in any way possible to promote peace, friendship, and harmony between the two great Irish traditions.

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