

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 31, 1994

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I welcome today's watershed announcement by the IRA that it has decided to end the 25-year campaign of violence and pursue the path of peace. While much work remains to be done, the IRA's decision to join the political process can mark the beginning of a new era that holds the promise of peace for all the people of Northern Ireland.

I have just spoken with Prime Minister Albert Reynolds of Ireland and Prime Minister John Major of the United Kingdom to congratulate them for their persistent efforts to bring this day about. Their joint resolve to end the violence and pursue a negotiated settlement has been crucial to the progress made to date. Their historic Joint Declaration last December, together with the Anglo-Irish agreement of 1985, have built the foundation for the new hope we have today. I am pleased that the United States has been able to contribute to this process of reconciliation.

We join with the governments of Ireland and the United Kingdom in the hope and expectation that today's step will help bring a lasting and just peace to Northern Ireland. I urge the IRA and all who have supported it to fulfill the promise of today's announcement to end the use and support of violence, just as we continue to call on all parties who have sought to achieve political goals through violence to cease to do so. There must be a permanent end to the violence.

The United States continues to stand ready to assist in advancing the process of peace in Northern Ireland. We hope that both traditions -- Unionist and Nationalist -- will support the only real avenue to peace, that of a negotiated settlement to the conflict.

Facsimile Cover Sheet

To: Dr. John Alderdice
Company: Alliance Party
Phone: 0232 793097
Fax: 0232 786689

From: Valentino E. Martinez,
Consul General
Company: Consulate General, Belfast
Phone: 0232 328239
Fax: 0232 248482

Date: 09/01/94

Pages including this
cover page: Two

Comments:

FYI