

STATEMENT BY SENATOR MITCHELL

PLENARY SESSION SEPTEMBER 15, 1997

The Chairmen take the principles of democracy and non-violence seriously and as essential to the success of this process. They represent not just the views of the three of us who devised them and wrote them down; but, more importantly, they represent the aspiration for peace, political stability and reconciliation of the overwhelming majority of the people of Northern Ireland.

Those principles have become the basis on which these talks were organized. If they fail, so will these talks.

We pray that won't happen, but if it does history will judge harshly those who caused it to happen.

You, the participants in these talks, are among the political leaders of Northern Ireland. So you know better than I how historic is the opportunity which these talks represent.

For the sake of the people you represent, the people of Northern Ireland, you cannot let these talks fail.

And if these talks are to have any chance to succeed, the principles of democracy and non-violence must be honored.