

Statement by Senator George J Mitchell  
Castle Buildings, Belfast, Northern Ireland  
June 10, 1996

On behalf of my colleagues, General de Chastelain and Prime Minister Holeri, I welcome you.

We are honored by the invitation to participate in these historic proceedings. We commend Prime Ministers Major and Bruton, Secretary of State Mayhew and Minister for Foreign Affairs Spring, those of you here today, and the many others across Northern Ireland who have contributed to this process. Our participation has exposed us to the people of Northern Ireland. We have come to know and admire them.

We assure you that we are motivated solely by a desire to be of help to you and to them. We will meet our responsibilities in a totally fair and impartial manner.

We recognize that it is you who will make the decisions on which these proceedings will advance. We will do all we appropriately can to be of assistance, operating within the authority prescribed by the governments and by you. But, ultimately, the success of these proceedings rests on your shoulders and in your hearts.