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SUBJECT: BLOODY SUNDAY

SUMMARY

1. Very positive reactions in the Administration and in Congress.

DETAIL

2. The White House spokesman warmly welcomed the Prime Minister's decision to establish a new inquiry: "This is an important and timely initiative to come to terms with the past and to help the people of Northern Ireland look to the future and to the reconciliation that they seek as they now negotiate the terms of a peace... The President has a great deal of admiration for the political courage of Prime Minister Blair. This inquiry that he has launched is something that I think was no doubt difficult to do, and it speaks to his devotion to the peace process and his determination to advance that peace process forward".

3. Senator Kennedy also issued a supportive statement: "Prime Minister Blair's decision on a new inquiry is the right thing to do". Congressman King has been giving interviews to Irish media all day to put on record his "very positive reaction".

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