

and spent a number of...when I was...during college had a great...tremendous experience, at least one year, of spending it with a family that had been involved in the creation of the Irish state in 1916 and then the evolution of that...that nation over the...since that time till now. And have also...I have also had the opportunity to visit on a number of occasions Northern Ireland and my...and contrary, to some extent, with what Senator Lindsay has said, actually and, quite frankly, in conformity with really what Senator Haberman has argued with his statistics, is that the Catholics in Northern Ireland, to a great extent, are doing quite well. And, actually, the...and...and, to a great extent, the government of Southern Ireland, the 26 counties of Southern Ireland, is, to a great extent, opposing any rush to uniting Northern and Southern Ireland into one country. It...it really is the...the Irish Republican army and Sinn Fein, the political arm of the Irish Republican army, that is forcing, at this point, discussions about a union. But, given all that, my experience leads me to the conclusion, my experience in studying about...about Irish history and the fight that has been going on in Ireland for a number of years that is that there is no question in my mind that...that the eventual unification of...of Ireland is...is not only something that I support, but it is something that should be supported by this country, not only because of the number of...of Irish citizens that live here but also because, traditionally, ever since the creation of Irish...the Irish Republic in the...in the forties, this country has had a policy that has been generally encouraging that that happen. This is a very pivotal time in the history of Ireland because...and it's interesting, because I...when I was there in November there was a terrible bombing in Northern Ireland where 11 people were in killed in an IRA bombing, and then there were several reprisals after that. And then, subsequent to that, there was a real movement towards peace that occurred. Jerry Adams, the President of...Sinn Fein, came out of hiding and there was a discussion. He came to the United States. There was dis...there was the beginning of discussions between the...the Irish party in Parliament and the Irish Prime Minister and the British Prime Minister, and those...those discussions are extremely encouraging. And it's the first real movement towards unification in a peaceful manner than has occurred in a number of years, certainly since 1969. This adoption of these MacBride Principles is...and in the way they are drafted now, which is basically a statement of policy as opposed to any sanctions, is a...