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30 MAR 1973

*Senator Edward M. Kennedy
of Massachusetts*STATEMENT OF SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY ON BRITAIN'S
WHITE PAPER FOR NORTHERN IRELANDFOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MARCH 20, 1973

From the official summary I have seen, the White Paper for Northern Ireland, announced today, is a small but constructive forward step in Britain's policy toward Ulster, and I welcome it as such.

But the proposals themselves are still far more shadow than substance. The new Northern Ireland assembly, based on proportional representation, is a hopeful beginning, but it cannot be allowed to become the high water mark of British policy. Almost all of the details of shared legislative and executive power in Northern Ireland are left for future resolution, including the status and powers of the Council of Ireland, on whose reality the hopes and dreams of the minority so much depend.

At least, however, a new foundation has been laid, and men of good will on both sides can now begin to build their future. If Britain and the people of Ulster use the opportunity to create a future of peace and even-handed justice in Northern Ireland, then the promise of the White Paper will be met, and the legitimate aspirations of both sides will be fulfilled.

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*Richard L.
21-10-73*