

## NATIONAL ARCHIVES

### IRELAND



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FOLLOWING ARE REMARKS OF SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY TO BE  
DELIVERED AT IRELAND FUND DINNER, NEW YORK CITY AT 7 P.M.  
OF MAY 18, 1977.

*RM 13/7*

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE TO BE HERE THIS EVENING IN NEW YORK CITY WITH SO MANY DISTINGUISHED IRISH AMERICANS AND OTHER FRIENDS AT THIS ANNUAL GATHERING OF THE IRELAND FUND. I AM PROUD TO BE HERE WITH YOUR CHAIRMAN, TONY O'REILLY, ONE OF THE GREAT RUGBY PLAYERS OF ALL TIME, WHOSE SKILL ON THE PLAYING FIELD IS MATCHED BY HIS SUCCESS IN BUSINESS AND BY THE GREAT WARMTH OF HIS PERSONALITY. I COMMEND HIM FOR OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP IN GUIDING THE WORK OF THE IRELAND FUND, FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE FUND IN RECENT YEARS, AND FOR THE ASSISTANCE IT HAS PROVIDED TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND THROUGH ITS GOOD WORKS IN THE CAUSE OF PEACE, CULTURE AND CHARITY.

I ALSO COMMEND THE DISTINGUISHED RECIPIENT OF YOUR ANNUAL AWARD THIS YEAR WILLIAM SHEA. THROUGH HIS LEADERSHIP IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LIFE OF THIS CITY, HE HAS HELPED TO CARRY ON THE TRADITION OF IRISH AMERICANS CONCERNED ABOUT OUR COUNTRY AND ITS FUTURE, AND I AM PROUD TO BE HERE AS WE HONOR HIM THIS EVENING.

IN ADDITION, I PAY TRIBUTE TO ONE OF THE FINEST AND MOST CREATIVE POLITICAL LEADERS OF OUR GENERATION, A MAN OF EXTRAORDINARY COURAGE AND WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING, THE ELOQUENT SPOKESMAN FOR THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND ONE OF THE CREATORS OF THE CONCEPT OF PARTNERSHIP98, 27.3 OF DERRY. IT IS A SPECIAL HONOR FOR ME TO JOIN HIM ON THIS OCCASION, AND TO PRAISE HIS LEADERSHIP AND THAT OF THE S.D.L.P. IN THE LONG AND AGONIZING SEARCH FOR PEACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

I COME HERE TONIGHT AS AN IRISHMAN, PROUD OF MY IRISH ANCESTRY. I ALSO TAKE GREAT PRIDE THAT IT IS AN IRISH FAMILY FROM NEW ENGLAND THAT HOLDS THE DISTINCTION OF HAVING MORE BROTHERS IN HIGH PUBLIC OFFICE AT ONE TIME THAN ANY OTHER FAMILY. I REFER, OF COURSE TO THE FAMOUS SULLIVANS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, FOUR BROTHERS, WHO WERE GOVERNOR OF MASSACHUSETTS, GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, ATTORNEY GENERAL, AND STATE SUPREME COURT JUDGE, RESPECTIVELY.

I ALSO RECALL JUDGE KILLEN OF NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE, WHO STRUCK HIS OWN ANNUAL BLOW FOR IRISH FREEDOM IN THE EARLY YEARS OF THIS CENTURY. IT WAS HIS CUSTOM TO FREE THE IRISH PRISONERS FROM HIS CITY JAIL ON EACH ST. PATRICK'S DAY. ONCE, SIXTY YEARS AGO THERE WERE 19 INMATES, INCLUDING TWO BLACK PRISONERS. NONE OF THEM DENIED THEIR IRISH HERITAGE, AND ALL OF THEM WERE FREED.

WHETHER WE GO BACK SIXTY YEARS OF SIX HUNDRED YEARS, THE TRADITION IS THE SAME. THE IRISH HAVE LOVED THEIR FREEDOM IN THE PAST AND THEY LOVE THEIR FREEDOM NOW. THEY HAVE FOUGHT OPPRESSION IN ALL THE WAYS IN WHICH HISTORY BEARS WITNESS. SELFLESS AND UNSELFISH, IRELAND HAS SENT MEN, WOMEN AND DAUGHTERS



HER PHYSICIANS AND PRIESTS, HER SOGS AND SOLDIERS, HER SAINTS AND SCHOLARS - AND HER SICKERS - TO COUNTLESS OTHER NATIONS AROUND THE WORLD, AND EVERYWHERE THEY WENT, THEY TOOK THEIR CAUSE OF FREEDOM WITH THEM.

SOME, TO AVOID THE SUFFERING AND HARDSHIP, LEFT THEIR NATIVE LAND AND CROSSED THE OCEAN TO THE WEST. THEY CAME TO BOSTON AND NEW YORK AND TO OTHER MAJOR AMERICAN CITIES. THEY SOUGHT A NEWER WORLD. THEY FOUND A PLACE OF HOPE AND OPPORTUNITY FOR THEIR CHILDREN AND THEMSELVES.

TODAY, THE IRISH YIELD TO NONE IN THEIR ROLE IN THE MAKING OF AMERICA. THE WAVES OF IRISH IMMIGRANTS WHO REACHED OUR SHORES BEGAN ONE OF THE GREAT MOVEMENTS IN HISTORY. FLEEING FAMINE AND OPPRESSION, THEY FOUND FOOD AND OPPORTUNITY. LANDING IN MASSACHUSETTS AND NEW YORK, THEY BUILT THE MILLS THAT LAUNCHED THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION. MIGRATING TO THE WEST, THEY SPANNED OUR CONTINENT AND CHANGED THE COURSE OF HISTORY.

THEY SAY THAT IRKLJOICHLNOWLFEDWS IP OGE VZIPPY OF MNE AMERI IWN W)3=346 '3=3. THERE ARE MORE IRISH IN THE UNITED STATES NOW THAN IN THE IRELAND THEY LEFT BEHIND.

AND THEY HAVE LEFT THEIR MARK IN EVFACET OF AMERICAN LIFE. WHEREVER WE LOOK IN BUSINESS AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT, IN LITERATURE AND MUSIC AND SPORTS, IN SCIENCE AND RELIGION, IN PUBLIC SERVICE AT EVERY LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT, WE FIND CITIZENS OF IRISH DESCENT WHO BUILT OUR NATION AND HELPED TO MAKE IT STRONG.

TO THIS DAY, THEIR MONUMENTS ENDURE. ON A PLAQUE AMID THE RUINS OF THE ALAMO, YOU CAN READ THE NAMES OF THE BRAVE MEN WHO FOUGHT AND DIED FOR TEXAS FREEDOM. SIDE BY SIDE WITH BOWIE AND CROCKETT, WE READ THAT O'SHAUGHNESSY AND BAILEY ALSO DIED.

THEY WERE WILD GEESE FAR FROM HOME, FARTHER STILL FROM THEIR NATIVE ISLAND, BUT THEY WERE CLOSER TO THE IDEAL OF HOPE AND FREEDOM THEY CHERISHED - THE SAME IDEAL THAT HAS KINDLED THE SPIRIT OF SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF IRELAND IN EVERY GENERATION OF OUR HISTORY.

ON THE BATTLEFIELDS OF THE CIVIL WAR, YOU ALSO FIND MEMORIALS TO IRISH AMERICANS - FREE MEN WILLING TO FIGHT FOR OTHERS WHOSE FREEDOM WAS DENIED. IRELAND RID HERSELF OF SLAVERY SEVEN HUNDRED YEARS BEFORE. NO SLAVE SHIP EVER SAILED FROM AN IRISH PORT.

BUT THEY COULD FEEL THE SHAME OF SLAVERY IN THEIR ADOPTED LAND. WHEN ABRAHAM LINCOLN CALLED, THE SOME OF IRELAND WERE AMONG THE FIRST TO ANSWER. THEY FORMED THE LEGENDARY IRISH BRIGADE AND MARCHED TO SAVE THE UNION.

HISTORIALS WRITE OF THEIR DESPERATE ASSAULT ON MARY'S HILL AT FREDERICKSBURG IN 1862. THE CHARGE WAS HOPELESS BUT STILL THEY CHARGED. THEY ADVANCED WITH GREEN BANNERS FLYING IN THE CYEEZE, WITH SHAMROCKS ON THEIR SLEEVES - AND, IT IS SAID WITH CANTEENS FULL OF LIQUOR.

THEY DID NOT KNOW THE MEANING OF RETREAT. AND AFTER THE BATTLE, AFTER THE TERRIBLE DEFEAT AND CRIPPLING CASUALTIES, A CHAPLAIN TOLD ONE OF THE FEW SURVIVORS:

"IT MUST HAVE BEEN A GREAT CONSOLATION TO YOU, IN YOUR HOUR ANGER, TO HAVE KNOWN THAT YOU WERE SUPPORTED BY DIVINE PROVIDENCE."

SAID THE SURVIVOR, "WE WERE SUPPORTED BY THE IRISH BRIGADE, AND THAT WAS CONSOLATION ENOUGH."



BUT THERE IS LITTLE CONSOLATION NOW. THERE IS LITTLE CONSOLATION FOR IRELAND OR FOR ANY WHO BELIEVE IN THE CAUSE OF PEACE AND JUSTICE.

ALAN PATON, THE GREAT SOUTH AFRICAN WRITER, WROTE ELOQUENTLY ABOUT THE HERITAGE OF FEAR THAT IS THE SHAMEFUL BIRTHRIGHT OF YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN IN ANOTHER, SOUTH AFRICA, WHERE OPPRESSION ALSO RULES.

HIS WORDS ARE APPROPRIATE FOR THE PEOPLES OF NORTHERN IRELAND AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES EVERYWHERE.

"CRY, THE BELOVED COUNTRY," HE SAID, "FOR THE UNBORN CHILD THAT IS THE INHERITER OF OUR FEAR. LET HIM NOT LOVE THE EARTH TOO DEEPLY. LET HIM NOT LAUGH TOO GLADLY WHEN THE WATER RUNS THROUGH HIS FINGERS, NOR STAND TOO SILENT WHEN THE SETTING SUN MAKES RED THE LAND WITH FIRE. LET HIM NOT BE TOO MOVED WHEN THE BIRDS OF HIS LAND ARE SINGING, NOR GIVE TOO MUCH OF HIS HEART TO A MOUNTAIN OR A VALLEY. FOR FEAR WILL ROB HIM OF ALL IF HE GIVES TOO MUCH".

MEN AND WOMEN HAVE NOT KNOWN THAT DEPTH OF FEAR ON AMERICAN SOIL FOR MORE THAN A HUNDRED YEARS. BUT THEY KNOW IT TODAY IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

THEY KNOW THE BOMBINGS AND THE KILLINGS. THEY KNOW THE SECTARIAN MURDERS ON BOTH SIDES WHOSE SENSELESSNESS IS EXCEEDED ONLY BY THEIR VICIOUSNESS. THEY KNOW THE MYRIAD UGLY FACES OF HATRED AND DISCRIMINATION. THEY KNOW THEM WELL, BECAUSE THESE ARE THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THEY LIVE — CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH NO CIVILIZED PEOPLES SHOULD HAVE TO LIVE.

YET, THEY ARE THE CONDITIONS OF DAILY LIFE IN DERRY AND BELFAST AND ALMOST EVERY OTHER COMMUNITY IN NORTHERN IRELAND. THEY ARE THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH AN ENTIRE GENERATION OF IRISH CHILDREN IS BEING RAISED AND SCHOOLED.

THE FEAR OF DEATH BY RANDOM BULLET, THE TERROR OF A FATHER OR MOTHER SLAUGHTERED BEFORE THEIR CHILDREN, THE INDISCRIMINATE CRUELTY AND BRUTALITY OF A BOMB IN A CROWDED SHOPPING CENTER — NOWHERE ELSE ON EARTH IS LIFE SO FULL OF HORROR AND DESTRUCTION AS IT IS TODAY IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

EVEN WITHOUT THE CLOSE-KNIT BONDS OF IRISH BLOOD AND IRISH HISTORY, THE DEEPENING TRAGEDY OF NORTHERN IRELAND WOULD DEMAND VOICES OF CONCERNED AMERICANS BE RAISED AGAINST THE KILLING AND THE VIOLENCE. BUT BECAUSE THE KILLING AND THE VIOLENCE GO ON IN A LAND WE DEEPLY LOVE, THERE IS A SPECIAL URGENCY TO THE CALL FOR OUR INVOLVEMENT.

AS AMERICANS, WE CANNOT TURN ASIDE OUR EYES WHEN IRELAND WEEPS. WE CANNOT STAND SILENT IN THE FACE OF THEIR ORDEAL. WE HAVE A SOLEMN OBLIGATION TO WORK FOR PEACE, TO SPEAK AGAINST THE VIOLENCE AND DESTRUCTION ON BOTH SIDES.

A FEW WEEKS AGO ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY, FOUR OF US WHO SHARE THIS VIEW JOINED TOGETHER IN A STATEMENT URGING THOSE ENGAGED IN VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND TO HALT THEIR CAMPAIGNS OF DEATH AND DESTRUCTION AND RETURN TO THE PATH OF PEACE. WE ALSO CALLED ON OUR FELLOW AMERICANS TO GIVE ANY SUPPORT OR ENCOURAGEMENT, BY DOLLARS OR BY DEED, FOR THOSE ENGAGED IN VIOLENCE.

WE ADDRESSED OUR PLEA TO THE VIOLENCE ON BOTH SIDES, PROTESTANT AS WELL AS CATHOLIC, UDA AS WELL AS IRA. I REPEAT THAT PLEA TONIGHT AND I SHALL CONTINUE TO REPEAT IT. WHILE THE KILLING IN NORTHERN IRELAND GOES ON, LET NO AMERICAN HAVE IT ON HIS CONSCIENCE THAT HIS EFFORTS OR HIS DOLLARS HELPED TO MAKE THE VIOLENCE WORSE.



AND THE VIOLENCE DOES GO ON. TWO INSTANCES IN RECENT WEEKS REVEAL THE HORROR.

THE FIRST CONCERNS LITTLE STEPHEN HARRISON WHO IS TEN MONTHS OLD. ON APRIL 4, HIS MOTHER, AGED 20, TOOK HIM IN HIS BABY CARRIAGE TO THE CENTER OF BELFAST. SHE JOINED A FRIEND IN A CAFE ON ROSEMARY STREET IN A DOWNTOWN AREA OF THE CITY. SHE TOOK A SEAT DESIDE A WINDOW, WHERE HER CHILD COULD SEE THE VIEW. MOMENTS LATER, THE BOMB EXPLODED. MRS HARRISON SUFFERED A BROKEN ARM, BUT MANY OTHERS DID NOT FARE AS WELL. STEPHEN HARRISON WAS BLOWN FROM HIS CARRIAGE. THEY FOUND HIM GASHED AND BRUISED, COVERED WITH RUBBLE, BURNED ON HIS FACE AND HANDS, SILENT, NOT EVEN SODDING, BUT ALIVE. LATER, THE PROVISIONAL IRA CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE BOMB. MRS HARRISON SAID THAT WHEN THE BOMB WAS PLANTED, THEY MUST HAVE SEEN HER CHILD.

INCREDIAS IT MAY SEEM, THAT WAS STEPHEN HARRISON'S SECOND BRUSH WITH DEATH. LAST JUNE, BARELY FOUR DAYS OLD, HE HAD TO BE EVACUATED FROM HIS BELFAST MATERNITY WARD, TO ESCAPE A BOMB ON A NEARBY RAILWAY LINE.

THE SECOND INSTANCE CONCERNS MR HARRY BRADSHAW, AGED 46, WHO LIVED IN NEWTONABBEY OUTSIDE BELFAST. FOR YEARS, HE HAD DRIVEN A BUS IN BELFAST TO MAKE HIS LIVING. BUT IN HARRY BRADSHAW'S OWN PROTESTANT COMMUNITY, THEY DECREED A GENERAL STRIKE, TO BRING NORTHERN IRELAND TO ITS KNEES AND PROMOTE THEIR EXTREMIST VIEW. THE VAST MAJORITY ORKERS, INCLUDING HARRY BRADSHAW, HAD THE COURAGE TO DEFY THE STRIKE AND CONTINUE ON THEIR JOBS. BUT ON MAY 10 BARELY A WEEK AGO, A PROTESTANT GUNMAN TURNED TO MURDER IN HIS DESPERATION TO ENFORCE THE STRIKE. AT THE STOP AT QUEENSLAND STREET AND CRUMLIN ROAD, THE GU STEPPED ABOARD HARRY BRADSHAW'S BUS AND SHOT HIM DEAD AT POINT BLANK RANGE. HIS WIFE, TWO SONS AND THREE DAUGHTERS NOW MUST FIND A WAY TO CARRY ON ALONE.

TRAGEDIES LIKE THESE COULDMULTIPLIED A THOUSAND OR TEN THOUSAND FOLD IN DESCRIBING THE KILLING AND THE WOUNDING OF THE PAST EIGHT YEARS. WHAT POSSIBLE JUSTIFICATION CAN THERE BE FOR SUCH WANTON RANDOM MURDER AND DESTRUCTION? WHAT POSSIBLE JUSTIFICATION CAN THERE BE FOR ANY AMERICAN ACTION THAT WOULD COBUTE IN ANY WAY TO THIS BLODDY ND SENSELESS, VIOLENCE?

THERE IS A BRIGHTER SIDE, HOWEVER. TWO FAR-REACHING DEVELOPMENTS IN RECENT MONTHS GIVE ROOM FOR MODEST HOPE THAT A TURNING POINT IS BEING REACHED; THAT THE DOWNWARD SPIRAL INTO CHAOS MAY BE BROKEN, AND THAT A NEW OPPORTUNITY MAY BE NEAR AT HAND FOR MODERATE LEADERS ON BOIDES TO TRY AGAIN TO END THE VIOLENCE TO ACHIEVE A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT.

THE FIRST DEVELOPMENT IS THE REMARKABLE SUCCESS OF THE WOMEN'S PEACE MOVEMENT. IT BEGAN IN THE SUMMER OF 1976, - AS A CRY FROM THE HEARTS OF TWO COURAGEOUS CATHOLIC HOUSEWIVES AGAINST THE APPALLING DAILY VIOLENCE IN THEIR LIVES. AT THE BEGINNING, THE MOVEMENT GREW ENORMOUSLY, DRAWING MASSIVE SUPPORT FROM BOTH PROTESTANTS AND CATHOLICS IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND FROM MANY IN OTHERPLANDS. THE SPONTANEOUS GROWTH OF THE MOVEMENT WAS A DRAMATIC SYMPTON OF THE MASSIVE GRASS-ROOTS SENTIMENT FOR PEACE THAT LIES WAITING TO BE TAPPED. BECAUSE OF THE PEACE MOVEMENT, POLITICAL LEADERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, THE GOVERNMENTS IN LONDON AND DUBLIN, AND PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD ARE NOW MORE SENSITIVE TO THE FUNDAMENTAL DESIRE OF ORDINARY CITIZENS OF THE NORTH FOR PEACE AND AN END TO THE YEARS OF VIOLENCE.

THE SECOND IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT IS THE FAILURE IN RECENT DOF THE LOYALIST GENERAL STRIKE. THE STRIKE COLLAPSED BECAUSE OF THE OVERWHELMING RESISTANCE FROM PROTESTANT WORKERS LIKE HARRY BRADSHAW WHO REFUSED TO JOIN THE STRIKE. IT ALSO FAILED BECAUSE OF THE RESOLUTE STAND BY SECRETARY ROY MASON AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, WHICH FIRMLY OPPOSED THE STRIKE AND WHICH REFUSED TO REBUILT A



RECURRENCE OF THE DISASTROUS EXPERIENCE OF 1974, WHEN A SHORT-  
GENERAL STRIKE BROUGHT DOWN THE SUNNINGDALE COALITION GOVERNMENT.

WE DO NOT YET KNOW THE FULL RAMIFICATIONS OF THE STRIKE AND ITS  
COLLAPSE. IT IS DIFFICULT ENOUGH TO FORECAST EV FROM THE GROUND  
IN NORTHERN IRELAND, LET ALONE FROM THE DISTANCE OF THE UNITED  
STATES.

IT SEEMS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT THE LOYALIST EXTREMISTS HAVE SUFFERED  
A SIGNIFICANT REVERSE. THERE IS REASON FOR HOPE THAT MODER  
IN THE UNIONIST COMMUNITY CAN NOW MOVE FORWARD MORE PROMINENTLY  
TO FILL THE VACUUM. IN ANY SUCH EFFORT, THEY ARE LIKELY TO  
FIND A MORE RECEPTIVE RESPONSE IN BOTH THE PROTESTANT AND  
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

AND SO I APPEAL AGAIN TO THE HARDLINERS AND EXTREMISTS ON BOTH SIDES.  
PUT AWAY THE GUNS AND BOMBS. GIVE PEACE A CHANCE. LET TALKS OCCUR.  
LET ALL FACTIONS REFRAIN FROM NEW PROVOCATION. WHILE PEACEFUL MEN  
AND WOMEN ON BOTH SIDES EXPLORE THE GROUND TOGETHER AND SEEK A  
REASONABLE COMPROMISE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL THE PEOPLE.

AS A CENTRAL PART OF ANY NEW PEACE INITIATIVE, I HOPE THERE WILL BE  
A NEW COMMITMENT OF LEADERSHIP BY BOTH THE DUBLIN AND LONDON  
GOVERNMENTS. I DO NOT MEAN LEADERSHIP THAT SEEKS TO IMPOSE A  
SOLUTION BY FIAT FROM OUTSIDE. NOR DO I LEAN LEADERSHIP THAT  
ABDICATES ITS RESPONSIBILITY AND LEAVES THE PARTIES TO NEGOTIATE ON  
THEIR OWN IN FUTILE ISOLATION. WHAT I MEAN IS LEADERSHIP THAT  
ACTIVELY ENCOURAGES THE PARTIES TO COME TOGETHER, AND THAT CREATES  
A FRAMEWORK FOR THE RESOLUTION OF BASIC DIFFERENCES IN AN ATMOSPHERE  
OF COOPERATION AND RECONCILIATION.

THERE IS A CONTRIBUTION TO BE MADE BY AMERICA AS WELL. PERHAPS OUR  
MOST IMPORTANT EFFORT AS IRISH AMERICANS AT THIS STAGE IS TO OPEN  
FRANK LINES OF COMMUNICATION TO BOTH COMMUNITIES. WE MUST TRY TO  
ALLAY THE FEARS AND SENSITIVITIES OF THE MAJORITY THAT IMPAIR THE  
SEARCH FOR PEACE, WHILE ALSO REAFFIRMING OUR STRONG COMMITMENT TO  
THE INTERESTS AND BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE MINORITY.

GOVERNOR HUGH CAREY OF NEW YORK PUT IT WELL A MONTH AGO. SPEAKING  
IN DUBLIN AND ADDRESSING BOTH COMMUNITIES, HE SAID:

"THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTH — BOTH PROTESTANT AND CATHOLIC —  
SHOULD KNOW THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE IRISH AMERICAN  
COMMUNITY HAVE NO DESIRE TO INTRUDE UPON ANY FUTURE FORM  
OF GOVERNMENT DEMOCRATICALLY ARRIVED AT."

OUR MESSAGE TO EACH COMMUNITY SHOULD BE CLEAR. TO THE PROTESTANTS  
IN NORTHERN IRELAND, I SAY THAT THE OVERWHELMING NUMBER OF IRISH-  
AMERICANS AND OTHERS IN THE UNITED STATES WISH THEM WELL AS THEY  
EMBARK ON THE COMMON SEARCH FOR PEACE. THE GOVERNMENT AND THE  
PEOPLE OF AMERICA STAND READY TO PROVIDE WHATEVER ASSISTANCE MAY BE  
APPROPRIATE OR REQUESTED TO FACILITATE A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

WEK NO UNFAIR ADVANTAGE AT THE UNIONISTS' EXPENSE. WE HAVE NO  
DESIRE OR INTENTION TO IMPOSE A SOLUTION THAT IS ARBITRARY OR  
UNREASONABLE TO THEIR INTERESTS. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO BE QUICK TO  
CONDEMN THE VIOLENCE AND THE KILLING AND INTRANSIGENCE BY THE  
TERRORISTS AND EXTREMISTS ON THEIR SIDE BUT WE SHALL BE EQUALLY  
QUICK TO EMBRACE INITIATIVES FOR PEACE.

EARLIER, I SPOKE OF THE WELL-KNOWN IRISH ROLE IN THE FOUNDING  
AND BUILDING OF AMERICA. WE KNOW THAT PROTESTANTS FROM NORTHERN  
LAND ARE A PART OF AMERICA'S IRISH ROOTS. THEY HAVE  
CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO THE STRENGTH AND HERITAGE OF OUR COUNTRY.  
WHICHEVER REPRESENTS OF JOURNEY DEGENERATION OF THE  
PROTESTANT STOCK OF NORTHERN IRELAND. ANDREW JACKSON AND NINE  
OTHER AMERICAN PRESIDENTS ARE ALSO DESCENDED FROM THAT STOCK.



THE PAST AND PRESENT GREATNESS OF AMERICA IS REFLECTED IN THE  
TWIN PILLARS OF OUR IRISH HERITAGE, BOTH CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT.

OUR LAND HAS PROSPERED UNDER THIVERSITY OF OUR TRADITIONS,  
AND SO CAN NORTHERN IRELAND. AS IRISH AMERICANS TODAY, WE BELIEVE  
THAT EACH SIDE DESERVES TO LIVE IN PEACE, FREE TO PRESERVE AND  
NOURISH THE BEST IN ITS OWN TRADITION. EACH SIDE DESERVES  
TO CONTROL ITS DESTINY AND TO FULFILL ITS ASPIRATIONS IN HARMONY  
WITH THE OTHER SIDE AND WITH RESPECT FOR THE RIGHTS OF ALL.

WE OFFER OUR ENCOURAGEMENT AND ASSISTANCE FOR ANY RESPONSIBLE  
PROTESTANT EFFORT TO REACH THESE GOALS, WHATEVER FORM OF  
GOVERNMENT OR POLITICAL ARRANGEMENT THE COMMUNITIES MAY CHOOSE  
TOGETHER. THAT IS MY MESSAGE OF PEACE TO THE PROTESTANTS, AND I  
HOPE THAT IT WILL BE HEARD AND HEEDED IN THE GENEROUS SPIRIT IN  
WHICH IT IS OFFERED.

TO THE CATHOLICS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, I RENEW MY CONTINUING  
COMMITMENT TO SPEAK OUT FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT THAT FULFILLS  
THEIR BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS, THAT PROTECTS THEM AGAINST DISCRIMINATION  
IN ALL ITS UGLY FORMS, AND THAT OFFERS THEM A VOICE AND ROLE  
IN SHAPING THE SOCIETY IN WHICH THEY LIVE.

I ALSO PRAISE THE CATHOLIC CNITY FOR ITS OVERWHELMING  
REJECTION OF VIOLENCE AND ITS ENDURING SUPPORT FOR THE POLITICAL  
PROCESS IN NORTHERN IRELAND DURING THESE DIFFICULT YEARS OF  
HARDSHIP AND DURESS. THEIR COURAGE AND THE LEADERSHIP OF MEN LIKE  
JOHN HUME HAVE BEEN AN INSPIRATION TO IRISH AMERICANS AND TO PEOPLE  
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. ~~THEIR REJECTION OF VIOLENCE AND THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE POLITICAL~~  
REPRESSION AND GROSS VIOLATIONS IN CRITICAL AREAS LIKE JOBS AND  
HOUSING AND VOTING AND OTHER BASIC CIVIL RIGHTS — THEY HAVE  
CHOSEN THE PATH OF PEACEFUL CHANGE.

IN OT LANDS, FACED WITH SIMILAR PROVOCATION, THE BULLET HAS  
OFTEN TRIUMPHED OVER THE BALLOT. POLITICAL LEADERS OF MODERATION  
HAVE BEEN SWEEP ASIDE, DEPRIVED OF THE SUPPORT OF THEIR OWN  
COMMUNITY BECAUSE TOO MUCHLENCE FOR TOO LONG HAS POLARIZED TOO  
MANY OF THE PEOPLE.

BUT THIS HAS NOT BEEN THE FATE OF THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY IN NORTHERN  
IRELAND= THROUGHOUT THE LONG YE OF SUFFERING AND DISCRIMINATION,  
THEY HAVE DEMONSTRATED INCREDIBLE PATIENTS AND RESILIENCE, A  
PROFOUND FAITH IN THE ABILITY OF THE POLITICAL PROCESS TO RESOLVE  
THEIR GRIEVANCES.

THEY UNDERSTAND THAT VIOLENCE CANNOT SOLVE THE CRISIS, THAT KILLING  
ONLY MAKES THE CHAOS WORSE. IN THE CASE OF ADVERSITY AND OPPRESSION,  
THEY HAVE SET AERFUL EXAMPLE OF THE COURAGE OF THE HUMAN  
SPIRIT. I GIVE MY HIGHEST PRAISE TO JOHN HUME AND SO MANY OTHERS  
WHOSE LEADERSHIP HAS HELPED TO MAKE THIS ACHIEVEMENT POSSIBLE.

PEACE WCOME TO NORTHERN IRELAND, AND IT WILL COME IN LARGE PART  
BECAUSE THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE HAS FIRMLY REJECTEDOPTHE P

TOO OFTEN IN RECENT YEARS, WE HAVE SEEN THE AGE-OLD TRAGEDY  
OF IRELAND ENACTED AND RE-ENACTED. OUR PRAYER MUST BE THAT THE PATH  
BE DIFFERENT NOW, THAT PERSONS OF GOOD WILL ON BOTH SIDES  
WILL TRY AGAIN TO PICK THE PIECES UP, THAT AT LAST A COMPROMISE  
CAN BE FOUND ACCEPTABLE TO EACH COMMUNITY.

AS AMERICANS, WE STAND READY TO DO WHATEVER MAY BE OF HELP TO END  
THE VIOLENCE AND AID THE CAUSE OF P PEACE. LET THE SEARCH GO ON —  
IN DERRY AND BELFAST, IN DUBLIN AND LONDON, IN WASHINGTON AND BOSTON  
AND NEW YORK.

LET US PRAY FOR THE PATIENCE AND WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING NEEDED  
TO MAKE THE SEARCH EFFECTIVE. IF SUCCESS IS TO COME AT ALLN IT  
MAY COME BY SLOW AND PAINFUL STEPS. THERE IS NO QUICK SOLUTION



OR INSTANT CURE FOR THE DEEP DIVISIONS AND MISTRUST THAT NOW EXIST.

AS YEATS WROTE IN ONE OF HIS BEST-LOVED POEMS:

"I SHALL HAVE SOME PEACE THERE, FOR  
P COMES DROPPING SLOW,  
"DROPPING FROM THE VEILS OF THE  
MORNING TO WHERE THE CRICKETS SING".

PERHAPS, AS THE DEVELOPMENTS OF RECENT WEEKS HAVE HINTED, THE NIGHT IS NEARLY OVER AND THE MORNING OF WHICH THE POET SPOKE IS ABOUT TO REVEAL ITS LIGHT. PERHAPS IT IS ONLY ANOTHER OF THE FALSE DAWNS KNOWN SO LONG. BUT IF NOT NOW, YET IT WILL COME. THERE WILL BE FRUSTRATIONS AND DEFEATS ALONG THE WAY. BUT IF WE PERSEVERE, WE SHALL END THE KILLING. WE SHALL FIND THE PEACE. WE SHALL BUILD A NEW COMMUNITY OF HOPE AND FREEDOM AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL.

TONIGHT AND IN THE FUTURE, LET US HONOR GREAT TRADITIONS THAT BIND US TOGETHER IN IRISH FRIENDSHIP ACROSS THE SEA. AND IN DOING SO, LET US HONOR THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM, THE CAUSE OF ONE FOR ALL IN NORTHERN IRELAND.



## CORRECTIONS

EARLIER, I SPOKE OF THE WELL-KNOWN IRISH ROLE IN THE FOUNDING AND BUILDING OF AMERICA. WE KNOW THAT PROTESTANTS FROM NORTHERN IRELAND ARE A PART OF AMERICA'S IRISH ROOTS. THEY HAVE CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO THE STRENGTH AND HERITAGE OF OUR COUNTRY. SOME WERE SIGNERS OF OUR DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. WE HAVE A PRESIDENT, JIMMY CARTER, WHO IS DESCENDED FROM THE PROTESTANT STOCK OF NORTHERN IRELAND. ANDREW JACKSON AND NINE OTHER AMERICAN PRESIDENTS ARE ALSO DESCENDED FROM THAT STOCK. THE PAST AND PRESENT GREATNESS OF AMERICA IS REFLECTED IN THE TWIN PILLARS OF OUR IRISH HERITAGE, BOTH CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT.

I ALSO PRAISE THE CATHOLIC CHURCH FOR ITS OVERWHELMING REJECTION OF VIOLENCE AND ITS ENDURING SUPPORT FOR THE POLITICAL PROCESS IN NORTHERN IRELAND DURING THESE DIFFICULT YEARS OF HARDSHIP AND DURESS. THEIR COURAGE AND THE LEADERSHIP OF MEN LIKE JOHN HUME HAVE BEEN AN INSPIRATION TO IRISH AMERICANS AND TO PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. IN THE FACE OF YEARS OF SHAMEFUL POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL DISCRIMINATION — IN THE CASE OF VIOLENCE, REPRESSION AND GROSS VIOLATIONS IN CRITICAL AREAS LIKE JOBS AND HOUSING AND VOTING AND OTHER BASIC CIVIL RIGHTS — THEY HAVE CHOSEN THE PATH OF PEACEFUL CHANGE.

PEACE WILL COME TO NORTHERN IRELAND, AND IT WILL COME IN LARGE PART BECAUSE THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE HAS FIRMLY REJECTED THE PATH OF VIOLENCE AS THE ROUTE TO REACH ITS GOALS.