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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

August 3, 1981

P80  
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Mr. Burke  
Mr. ...

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Ms. ...  
R. Murphy

Dear Mr. President:

We are deeply concerned about the continuing stalemate over the hunger strike in Northern Ireland, which has resulted most recently in the tragic deaths this weekend of Kevin Lynch and Kieran Doherty.

We believe that these latest deaths demonstrate the need for a new commitment by the British Government. We believe it is possible to end the hunger strikes, and that a reasonable compromise can be achieved without compromising in any way the basic principle of opposition to violence. We continue to urge both sides to be more flexible in seeking such a compromise.

We are concerned particularly that any extension of the strike will only make more difficult the resolution of the broader political, social, and economic issues affecting the people of Northern Ireland.

We are also deeply concerned that the hunger strike, now in its sixth month, is damaging relations among Great Britain, Ireland, and the United States.

We believe the United States can play an active role in ending the current deadly impasse. We therefore respectfully request an immediate meeting with you to discuss a role for the United States in seeking the earliest possible settlement of the crisis, before any further deaths occur.

Sincerely,

Edward M. Kennedy

Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.

Daniel Patrick Moynihan

Hugh L. Carey

Christopher J. Dodd

James M. Shannon

Thomas F. Eagleton

Charles F. Dougherty

Daniel K. Inouye

Edward P. Boland

John Heinz

James J. Howard

Carl Levin

Pat Williams

Howard M. Metzenbaum

Edward J. Markey

Paul E. Tsongas

Bernard Dwyer