

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

## IRELAND



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| <b>Reference Code:</b>    | 2013/100/1098  |
| <b>Creation Date(s):</b>  | 17 March 1983  |
| <b>Extent and medium:</b> | 2 pages  |
| <b>Creator(s):</b>        | Department of the Taoiseach  |
| <b>Access Conditions:</b> | Open   |
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IMMEDIATE : FRIDAY MORNING

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*Hennessey*

TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON  
FOR HENNESSY FROM SHARKEY

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF SENATOR KENNEDY'S STATEMENT  
INTRODUCING "UNITED IRELAND" RESOLUTION IN THE SENATE,  
MARCH 17 1983.

"ON BEHALF OF MYSELF AND A BIPARTISAN GROUP OF 28 SENATORS  
- SENATORS MOYNIHAN, DIDD, BIDEN, BRADLEY, BUMPERS, BYRD,  
CHOEN, CRANSTON, DIXON, DOMENICI, EAGLETON, GLENN, HART, HEINZ,  
HILLINGS, LAXALT, LEAHY, MELCHER, METZENBAUM, MITCHELL, PELL,  
PROXMIRE, RIEGLE, SARBANES, SPECTER, TSONGAS AND WEICKER -  
I SEND TO THE DESK A "UNITED IRELAND" RESOLUTION, AND I ASK  
THAT IT MAY 3 43 3443 5553

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RESOLUTION, AND I ASK  
THAT IT MAY 3 43 3443 BE REFERRED TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN  
RELATIONS. A COMPANION RESOLUTION IS BEING INTRODUCED TODAY  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BY CONGRESSMAN FOLEY, MCDADE,  
SHANNON AND OTHER SPONSORS.

WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED BY THE TRAGIC VIOLENCE IN NORTHER IRELAND  
AND BY THE CONTINUING FAILURE OF THE PARTIES TO ACHIEVE A PEACEFUL  
SETTLEMENT OF THE CONFLICT. THE RESOLUTION WE ARE INTRODUCING  
TODAY IS GROUNDED IN OUR FIRM BELIEF THAT VIOLENCE IS NOT  
THE ROAD TO PEACE; THE ONLY REALISTIC PROSPECT FOR LASTING  
PEACE IS THROUGH A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT THAT ACHIEVES THE  
GOAL OF A UNITED IRELAND AND THAT HAS THE CONSENT OF ALL THE  
PARTIES. TO THIS END, OUR RESOLUTION IS BASED ON THE FOLLOWING  
FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES :

— IT UNEQUIVOCALLY CONDEMNS THE VIOLENCE OF ALL SIDES IN NORTHER  
IRELAND, AND IT URGES AMERICAN CITIZENS TO REFRAIN  
FROM ANY ACTION THAT CONTRIBUTES IN ANY WAY TO THE VIOLENCE.  
THE PATH OF THE BOMB AND THE BULLET LEADS ONLY TO THE DEATH

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THE PATH OF THE BOMB AND THE BULLET LEADS ONLY TO THE DEATH  
OF IRISH MEN AND WOMAN AND CHILDREN, AND TO THE GRAVE OF IRISH  
DREAMS.

— IT URGES THE PARTIES TO SEEK A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT THROUGH  
A PROCESS OF CONSENT AND RECONCILIATION THAT ACHIEVES THE GOAL OF  
IRISH UNITY AND ENDS THE THREE BASIC DIVISIONS AT THE HEART OF  
THE PRESENT CONFLICT — BETWEEN PROTESTANT AND CATHOLIC IN  
NORTHERN IRELAND, BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH IN IRELAND, AND  
BETWEEN BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

CENTURIES OF ANCIENT CONFLICT BETWEEN IRELAND AND BRITAIN.  
THE LESSON OF THE PAST DECADE OF RELENTLESS VIOLENCE  
AND UNREMITTING DESTRUCTION IS THAT TIMID STATESMANSHIP  
CANNOT YIELD A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT: NO PROGRESS TOWARD SUCH  
A SETTLEMENT IS LIKELY UNLESS AND UNTIL BOTH SIDES APPROACH THE  
TASK IN A SPIRIT OF ACCOMMODATION AND RECONCILIATION. JUST  
AS THE 500,000 CATHOLICS IN NORTHERN IRELAND CANNOT BE ENDLESSLY  
DOMINATED AND DOWNTRODDEN BY THE UNIONIST MAJORITY WITH THE  
ACQUIESCENCE OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, SO THE ONE MILLION

PROTESTANTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND CAN NEVER BE BOMBED INTO A  
UNITED IRELAND.

THAT IS WHY ONE OF THE MOST HELPFUL DEVELOPMENTS IN RECENT YEARS  
MAY TURN OUT TO BE THE DECISION LAST WEEK BY THE IRISH GOVERNMENT  
TO ESTABLISH A FORUM FOR CONSULTATIONS ON THE MANNER IN WHICH  
LASTING PEACE AND STABILITY IN A NEW IRELAND CAN BE ACHIEVED.  
ALL OF THE NATIONALIST PARTIES IN IRELAND -- THE THREE MAJOR  
PARTIES IN THE REPUBLIC AND THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOR  
PARTY IN NORTHERN IRELAND - HAVE AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN  
THESE CONSULTATIONS, WHICH OFFER NEW HOPE FOR DEMONSTRATING TO  
THE UNIONIST COMMUNITY IN NORTHERN IRELAND THAT THEIR INTERESTS  
TRULY LIE IN A UNITED IRELAND AND THAT THEIR RIGHTS AND  
TRADITIONS CAN BE FULLY PROTECTED IN THAT NEW IRELAND.

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TRADITIONS CAN BE FULLY PROTECTED IN THAT NEW IRELAND.

AS PRESIDENT REAGAN WROTE TO PRIME MINISTER FITZGERALD OF  
IRELAND ON JUNE 1 1981 :

"WE BELIEVE A LASTING SOLUTION CAN BE FOUND ONLY IN A  
PROCESS OF RECONCILIATION BETWEEN THE TWO IRISH POLITICAL  
TRADITIONS AND BETWEEN BRITAIN AND IRELAND. THE UNITED STATES  
WELCOMES THE EFFORTS OF THE IRISH AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS IN  
WIDENING THE FRAMEWORK OF THEIR COOPERATION TO THIS END."

THAT GOAL IS THE ESSENCE OF THE RESOLUTION WE ARE OFFERING  
TODAY. BY REASON OF THE LONGSTANDING HISTORICAL RELATIONSHIP  
OF THE UNITED STATES WITH BRITAIN AND IRELAND, AND OUR CLOSE  
CONTINUING TIES WITH BOTH NATIONS, WE BELIEVE THAT AMERICA  
HAS A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE TO PLAY IN ENCOURAGING THIS ANGLO IRISH  
COOPERATION, IN FACILITATING A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE  
CONFLICT IN NORTHERN IRELAND, AND IN RECONCILING THE TWO  
GREAT TRADITIONS OF THE IRISH PEOPLE.

FINALLY, IT IS APPROPRIATE THAT SO MANY MEMBERS OF THE SENATE  
AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ARE ACTING TO INTRODUCE  
THIS RESOLUTION ON ST PATRICK'S DAY. FOR THIS IS THE SPECIAL  
OCCASION EACH YEAR WHEN AMERICANS CELEBRATE THEIR IRISH  
HERITAGE AND THE FAR-REACHING CONTRIBUTIONS OF IRELAND  
AND HER PEOPLE TO THE HISTORY, POLITICAL LIFE, AND CULTURE OF  
THE UNITED STATES. PERHAPS, THROUGH EFFORTS LIKE THIS IN  
CONGRESS AND WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION, WE CAN  
IN SOME MEASURE REPAY OUR NATION'S DEBT TO IRELAND, BY HELPING  
AT THIS DIFFICULT TIME TO BRING PEACE AND UNITY TO THAT  
TROUBLED AND DIVIDED LAND."

END OF MESSAGE

MARCH 17 1983.

TIME : 18.15.HRS.⊕

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