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Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts

For Immediate Release
April 2, 1987

SENATOR KENNEDY NOMINATES JOHN HUME FOR ALBERT EINSTEIN PEACE PRIZE

Attached is the text of a letter from Senator Edward M. Kennedy nominating John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labor Party in Northern Ireland, for the 1987 Albert Einstein Peace Prize. The selection will be announced by the Albert Einstein Peace Prize Foundation within the next two months. The winner will receive \$50,000.

The prestigious Einstein Peace Prize, established in 1979, is awarded annually to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of world peace and international security. Past recipients include Olaf Palme, Willy Brandt, Pierre Trudeau, and George Kennan.

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to Brown *hmm*
9.4.87
to Humphrey
Boyle

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

March 31, 1987

Norman Cousins
Chairman, Selection Board
Albert Einstein Peace Prize Foundation
1430 West Wrightwood Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60614

Dear Mr. Chairman:

It is an honor for me to nominate John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labor Party in Northern Ireland, for the 1987 Albert Einstein Peace Prize.

I have known John Hume well for fifteen years. He is an extraordinary man of peace, and I have great admiration for his achievements and his leadership ability. I believe that he amply meets the qualifications for this high award.

Throughout the eighteen years of civil strife and turmoil in Northern Ireland, John Hume has dedicated his life to achieving a peaceful, just and lasting settlement of that conflict. As a member of the British Parliament and the European Parliament, and as the founder and current leader of the SDLP, he has demonstrated time and again the success and wisdom of peaceful negotiations and institution-building as the only acceptable method of ending the violence and achieving a solution of the crisis in his native land. Through his life and work, John Hume has given modern meaning to the eloquent words of Albert Einstein that, "Peace cannot be kept by force. It can only be achieved by understanding."

In the past two decades in Northern Ireland, the violence on both sides of the conflict has caused the deaths of more than 2,500 people; 20,000 have been maimed or injured, and untold millions of dollars in damage to property has occurred.

Throughout these turbulent years, John Hume has never lost faith in the belief that a negotiated settlement is the only realistic hope for peace, and that ancient antagonisms cannot be settled by violence and terrorism. He has an enduring vision of reconciliation based on equal respect and recognition for both traditions in Northern Ireland. His uncompromising defense of justice and human rights has reduced the level of violence, encouraged restraint and reason, and served as an inspiration to those seeking peaceful resolution of conflicts in other corners of the world.

It is remarkable that a man of such deep commitment to peace has risen to leadership of an oppressed minority in a divided country. Yet, surrounded by repressive measures and bitter frustration, John Hume has never yielded to rancor or intolerance. He has courageously and constructively challenged the presumptions and prejudices not only of the Unionist tradition in Northern Ireland -- but also of his own Nationalist tradition.

In challenging the one-sided society of Unionist domination and intolerance, pervasive discrimination in employment, housing and education, and the constant threat of violence and terrorism, John Hume fashioned a non-violent civil rights movement based on community action and cooperation.

Beginning with the launching of a credit union to provide assistance to the minority community to purchase housing, he fought consistently for the rights of the members of his community; his weapons were effective programs and peaceful deeds -- at a time when others in his own community increasingly urged the path of bombs and bullets. His ideas and Irish eloquence lighted a candle in the darkness of Northern Ireland, kindled an increasing sense of hope in the minority community, and created new possibilities for understanding between the two opposing sides of the conflict.

John Hume's community activity and involvement led directly to his long and distinguished political career. He brought together a broad coalition of Nationalist leaders who advocated non-violence, and together they founded the Social Democratic and Labor Party. Under his skillful guidance as leader of the Party, the SDLP has been at the forefront of every significant effort to achieve a peaceful settlement in Northern Ireland.

Largely because of the vision and diligence of John Hume, the SDLP and Unionist leaders concluded the landmark Sunningdale Agreement in 1973, an unprecedented power-sharing experiment between the Nationalist and Unionist traditions.

When the Sunningdale Agreement collapsed the following year in the face of extremist Unionist resistance, John Hume encouraged the parties to explore other avenues of peace. It was John Hume who first -- and for many years alone -- argued the necessity for establishing an on-going Anglo-Irish framework as the cornerstone for institutionalizing a process of reconciliation to heal the divisions within Northern Ireland, between North and South in Ireland, and between Britain and Ireland themselves.

In 1983, largely as a result of his efforts, the main Irish political parties and the SDLP established the far-reaching New Ireland Forum, which considered alternatives for progress and whose report laid the groundwork for an unprecedented new dialogue on

Northern Ireland between Britain and Ireland. This dialogue culminated in November 1985 with the signing of the historic Anglo-Irish Agreement by the Prime Minister of Great Britain and the Prime Minister of Ireland, representing the best hope in more than a decade for peace in Northern Ireland.

Today, the Anglo-Irish Agreement serves as a daily avenue of communication between the British and Irish Governments on matters affecting Northern Ireland. In implementing the Agreement, the two governments have also established an effective on-the-ground mechanism to consider specific grievances of the two communities in Northern Ireland on a day-to-day basis.

Britain and Ireland deserve great credit for their commitment to this process of reconciliation, but it could not have happened without the extraordinary leadership of John Hume. In so many ways, he is the glue that has held Northern Ireland together, halted the descent into anarchy and civil war, and produced the current hope for progress.

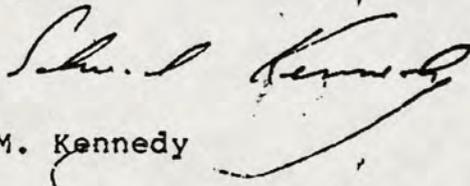
I also commend John Hume to your attention for the unusual influence that he has had on the United States and on the American dimension of the conflict in Northern Ireland. In his many visits to this country, he has been a constant Ambassador of Peace, urging the cause of reconciliation, educating the Congress and the country that American dollars for Irish violence are destroying, not uniting Ireland.

By honoring John Hume with the Albert Einstein Peace Prize, the Foundation would be paying a well-deserved tribute to a courageous leader of unusual achievement, who has dedicated and risked his life for the cause of peace in his native land. The award would also give immense encouragement to his dedicated supporters who have borne a heavy burden, against great odds, in the struggle for peace, democracy and justice.

Finally, the award would also serve as an encouragement to those in other divided societies, who suffer from oppression and violence while seeking the dream of democracy, economic progress and social justice.

The cause of world peace is fortunate to have leaders of the caliber of John Hume, and I urge the Foundation to honor him with the Albert Einstein Peace Prize for 1987.

Sincerely,


Edward M. Kennedy