

EDWARD M. KENNEDY
MASSACHUSETTS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

March 20, 1979

Dr. Robert Irwin
684 Antrim Road
Belfast, Northern Ireland

Dear Dr. Irwin:

I wanted to send along this note to you and your family, in praise of the courage you have shown in the difficult recent days. Few actions speak more loudly in confirmation of your comments on the brutality in Castlereagh than the shameful smear tactics employed in the effort to discredit you.

As my brother Robert Kennedy once told the students at the University of Capetown in South Africa on his visit there in 1966:

"Each time a man stands up for an ideal, of acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, these ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

Perhaps there is no turning point in Northern Ireland. But it may well be that actions of individual courage by persons like yourself can bring both sides together and bring the peaceful settlement that all of us desire a little closer.

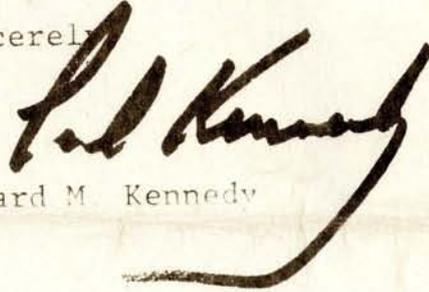
I am enclosing a copy of a joint statement I made last weekend with other Irish-American leaders, and I hope you will find it of interest. Obviously, I wish to cause you no

-2-

additional embarrassment through this letter. I do not intend to make it public, but please feel free to do with it as you wish.

With my best regards to you and your family,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ed Kennedy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right and then curves back down.

Edward M. Kennedy