

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

IRELAND



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M Hennessy

NO.565

TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON
FOR M HENNESSY FROM J SHARKEY

YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT ON 18TH NOVEMBER SENATOR KENNEDY ASKED THAT THE TAOISEACH'S RECENT STATEMENT ON THE MURDER OF ROBERT BRADFORD BE READ INTO THE SENATE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. THE SENATOR PREFACED HIS REQUEST WITH THE FOLLOWING INTRODUCTORY REMARKS:-

QUOTE

MR PRESIDENT, THE RECENT ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND IN GREAT BRITAIN IS A CAUSE OF DEEP CONCERN TO ALL AMERICANS WHO CARE ABOUT PEACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

THIS NEW ROUND OF VIOLENCE CULMINATED LAST SATURDAY IN THE ASSASSINATION BY THE PROVISIONAL IRA OF A MEMBER OF THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT FROM NORTHERN IRELAND, THE REVEREND ROBERT BRADFORD, WHO WAS SHOT DOWN WHILE MEETING WITH HIS CONSTITUENTS IN A COMMUNITY CENTER IN BELFAST. A WORKER AT THE CENTER ALSO DIED IN THE ASSAULT.

THROUGHOUT THE PAST DECADE, I HAVE CONDEMNED THE BRUTALITY AND THE KILLING ON BOTH SIDES IN NORTHERN IRELAND. I CONDEMN THE MURDER OF MR BRADFORD, JUST AS I CONDEMN THE CRUEL SECTARIAN MURDERS OF INNOCENT CATHOLICS BY PROTESTANT TERRORISTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND IN RECENT WEEKS.

IN THIS TROUBLED PERIOD, I URGE ALL THE PARTIES TO REFRAIN FROM ANY FURTHER ESCALATION OF THE VIOLENCE. I RENEW MY APPEAL TO ALL AMERICANS WHO SHARE THE CAUSE OF PEACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND TO AVOID ANY ACTION OR ASSOCIATION THAT CONTRIBUTES IN ANY WAY TO THE CONTINUING VIOLENCE. THERE ARE HOPEFUL SIGNS OF PROGRESS TOWARD A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE CONFLICT, AND WE MUST NOT PERMIT THEM TO BE DESTROYED BY THOSE WHO SEEK TO PROVOKE GREATER VIOLENCE.

MR PRESIDENT, I EXTEND MY SYMPATHY TO MR BRADFORDS FAMILY AND TO THE FAMILIES OF THE OTHERS WHO HAVE DIED IN THIS RECENT TRAGIC VIOLENCE. I ASK UNANIMOUS CONSENT THAT A STATEMENT IN THE IRISH PARLIAMENT BY PRIME MINISTER FITZGERALD ON THESE DEATHS BE PRINTED IN THE RECORD.

UNQUOTE

THERE FOLLOWS IN THE RECORD THE TEXT OF THE TAOISEACH'S STATEMENT.

END OF MESSAGE
20 NOVEMBER 1981
TIME SENT::1015HRS
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RESPOND TO HIBERNIA64160
VIA WUI 05
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O HQ

FROM PERM