

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**

**IRELAND**



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*Mr. K... mentioned to*  
*7/16/81*

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NO.314

TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON  
FOR R MURPHY FROM J SHARKEY

cc PSS  
*Mr. Melgan*  
*Mr. White*  
*Mr. Burke*  
*Mr. Murray*

*R*  
*MURPHY*

10 June 1981

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF RESOLUTION TABLED/BY KENNEDY,  
MOYNIHAN AND DODD AND OTHERS TOGETHER WITH ACCOMPANYING  
STATEMENT:-

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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*A* MR KENNEDY (FOR HIMSELF, MR MOYNIHAN, MR DODD, MR LEAHY,  
MR EAGLETON, MR LEVIN, MR INOUE, MR HART, MR TSONGAS, MR PELL,  
MR CRANSTON, MR PROXMIRE, AND MRS WEICKER) INTRODUCED THE  
FOLLOWING JOINT RESOLUTION: WHICH WAS READ TWICE AND REFERRED  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS.

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JOINT RESOLUTION  
ON THE HUNGER STRIKE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

WHEREAS THE CONTINUING VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND HAS  
TAKEN THE LIVES OF MORE THAN TWO THOUSAND MEN, WOMEN, AND  
CHILDREN IN THE PAST DECADE:

WHEREAS AN END TO THE KILLING AND THE VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN  
IRELAND CAN BE ACHIEVED ONLY THROUGH A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT  
WITH THE CONSENT OF ALL THE PARTIES:

WHEREAS CONGRESS IS DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER THE HUNGER STRIKE  
IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE DEATHS RESULTING FROM THE STRIKE:

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, THAT --

- (1) CONGRESS CONDEMNS THE VIOLENCE ON ALL SIDES IN  
NORTHERN IRELAND:
- (2) CONGRESS URGES THE PARTIES TO EXPLORE ALL POSSIBLE  
STEPS TO AVOID FURTHER DEATHS IN THE HUNGER STRIKE  
AND ACHIEVE AN IMMEDIATE AND HUMANITARIAN RESOLUTION  
OF THE ISSUES IN THE STRIKE:

(A) TO EXERCISE GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF PRISON RULES IN NORTHERN IRELAND; AND

(B) TO INVITE THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS OR OTHER APPROPRIATE INDEPENDENT PARTIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EFFORT TO SETTLE THE STRIKE:

- (4) CONGRESS URGES THE POLITICAL LEADERS IN GREAT BRITAIN, NORTHERN IRELAND, AND THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND TO SEEK THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE SETTLEMENT OF THE LARGER CONFLICT IN NORTHERN IRELAND THROUGH A NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT THAT ACHIEVES A LASTING PEACE, THAT HAS THE CONSENT OF ALL THE PARTIES, THAT RECOGNIZES THE RIGHTS OF BOTH THE CATHOLIC AND THE PROTESTANT COMMUNITY IN NORTHERN IRELAND, AND THAT SECURES FULL RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF THAT LAND; AND
- (5) CONGRESS REQUESTS THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO EXPRESS TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF GREAT BRITAIN THE CONCERN OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR AN IMMEDIATE SETTLEMENT OF THE HUNGER STRIKE AND A LASTING SETTLEMENT OF THE CONFLICT IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

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STATEMENT OF SENATOR EDWARD M KENNEDY INTRODUCING  
A RESOLUTION ON THE HUNGER STRIKE IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JUNE 10 1981

I SEND TO THE DESK A RESOLUTION ON THE HUNGER STRIKE IN NORTHERN IRELAND, AND I ASK THAT IT MAY BE REFERRED TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS.

THE DEATH OF FOUR HUNGER STRIKERS IN THE MAZE PRISON IN BELFAST IN RECENT WEEKS IS A SAD DAY FOR IRELAND AND FOR ALL WHO SEEK PEACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND AN END TO THE VIOLENCE THAT HAS CLAIMED SO MANY LIVES AND SCARRED SO MANY MORE IN THE PAST DECADE.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT THIS WEEK THAT MORE PRISONERS WILL JOIN THE HUNGER STRIKE IS A TRAGIC NEW ESCALATION OF THE CRISIS. NOW, BEFORE ADDITIONAL DEATHS AND BLOODSHED OCCUR, IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE PARTIES TO MAKE AN URGENT EFFORT TO END THIS LETHAL STALEMATE AND TO ACHIEVE A FAIR AND HUMANITARIAN RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUES IN THE STRIKE.

THE JOINT RESOLUTION WE ARE INTRODUCING TODAY IS DESIGNED TO HELP THE PARTIES REACH THAT GOAL. IT CONTAINS FIVE SIGNIFICANT PROVISIONS:

--FIRST, IT CONDEMNS THE VIOLENCE ON ALL SIDES IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

--SECOND, IT REQUESTS THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO EXPRESS TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF GREAT BRITAIN THE CONCERN OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR AN IMMEDIATE SETTLEMENT OF THE HUNGER STRIKE AND A LASTING SETTLEMENT OF THE CONFLICT IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

SECOND, IT URGES THE PARTIES TO EXPLORE ALL POSSIBLE STEPS TO END THE HUNGER STRIKE.

---THIRD, IT URGES THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAS CLEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR PRISON ADMINISTRATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND, TO EXERCISE GREATER FLEXIBILITY WITH RESPECT TO PRISON PROCEDURE. SURELY IT IS POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE A REASONABLE COMPROMISE ON ISSUES SUCH AS CLOTHING, PRISON WORK REQUIREMENTS, AND THE ASSOCIATION OF THE PRISONERS, WITHOUT COMPROMISING IN ANY WAY ON THE BASIC PRINCIPLE OF OPPOSITION TO VIOLENCE. THIS PROVISION OF THE RESOLUTION ALSO CALLS ON BRITAIN TO INVITE THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS OR OTHER APPROPRIATE INDEPENDENT PARTIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EFFORT TO SETTLE THE STRIKE. IN THE PAST, BRITAIN HAS IMPLEMENTED RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO THE MODIFICATION OF PRISON RULES, AND A SIMILAR INITIATIVE AT THIS TIME BY THE COMMISSION COULD PROVIDE THE BREAKTHROUGH NEEDED TO END THE CURRENT STRIKE.

---FOURTH, THE RESOLUTION URGES POLITICAL LEADERS IN BRITAIN, IRELAND, AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO SEEK THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF THE LARGER CONFLICT IN NORTHERN IRELAND. THAT SETTLEMENT MUST BE ACHIEVED WITH THE CONSENT OF ALL THE PARTIES. IT MUST RECOGNIZE THE RIGHTS OF BOTH THE CATHOLIC AND THE PROTESTANT COMMUNITY. AND IT MUST SECURE FULL RESPECT FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND. THE HUNGER STRIKE IS A SYMPTOM OF A DEEPER CRISIS--A CRISIS THAT WILL GO ON AND ON IN NORTHERN IRELAND, UNTIL ALL WHO TRULY SEEK AN END TO THE VIOLENCE CARE ENOUGH TO SPEAK AND WORK FOR PEACE.

---FIFTH, THE RESOLUTION REQUESTS THE PRESIDENT TO EXPRESS TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF GREAT BRITAIN THE CONCERN OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR AN IMMEDIATE END TO THE HUNGER STRIKE AND A LASTING SETTLEMENT OF THE CONFLICT IN NORTHERN IRELAND. THE UNITED STATES HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE, AND THE ADMINISTRATION SHOULD NOT HESITATE TO EXERCISE IT.

BEFORE MORE HUNGER STRIKERS DIE, BEFORE MORE LIVES ARE LOST IN VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS, BEFORE ALL THE HOPEFUL PROGRESS OF PAST MONTHS TOWARDS A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IS LOST, IT IS TIME FOR BRITAIN TO ACT TO BREAK THIS ENDLESS SPIRAL OF DEATH IN NORTHERN IRELAND, SO THAT LEADERS OF GOOD WILL MAY RESUME THEIR EFFORT TO CREATE A LASTING PEACE.

(SEE THE OTHER SIDE FOR THE TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION, WHICH WAS INTRODUCED BY SENATORS KENNEDY, MOYNIHAN, AND DODD.)

2. IT IS EXPECTED THAT A RESOLUTION IN SIMILAR TERMS WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE HOUSE TODAY OR EARLY NEXT WEEK BY SHANNON (D-MASS) AND DOUGHERTY (R-PA). WE WILL KEEP YOU POSTED.
3. CONGRESSMAN BIAGGI PROPOSES ALSO TO TABLE A RESOLUTION TODAY ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:-

WHEREAS IRISH MEN ARE DYING ON A HUNGER STRIKE IN  
NORTHERN IRELAND, AND

WHEREAS WORLD PLEAS, INCLUDING ONE BY POPE JOHN  
PAUL II, HAVE BEEN REGISTERED, AND

WHEREAS THIS HOUSE DEPLORES ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE HOUSE EXPRESSES  
ITS DEEP CONCERN OVER THE HUNGER STRIKE AND CALLS  
UPON THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO EXERCISE GREATER URGENCY  
AND FLEXIBILITY IN FINDING A HUMANITARIAN SOLUTION.

4. RESOLUTIONS ONCE TABLED ARE REFERRED TO THE RESPECTIVE  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE  
WHERE, IN THE NORMAL COURSE OF THINGS, THEY TAKE THEIR  
PLACE ON THE AGENDA WITH ALL THE OTHER VARIOUS RESOLUTIONS  
SIMILARLY REFERRED.

END OF MESSAGE

11 JUNE 1981

TIME SENT:::1736HRS@

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