



An Chartlann Náisiúnta
National Archives

Reference Code: 2021/94/16

Creator(s): Department of the Taoiseach

Accession Conditions: Open

Copyright: National Archives, Ireland.
May only be reproduced with
the written permission of the
Director of the National
Archives.

from the office of

*Senator Edward M. Kennedy
of Massachusetts*

**STATEMENT OF EDWARD M. KENNEDY
ON NORTHERN IRELAND**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOVEMBER 2, 1993**

**CONTACT: Pamela Hughes
Jim Manley
202-224-2633**

In the past nine days, 24 people have been killed in the escalating violence in Northern Ireland. All of us who hope for a peaceful settlement of the conflict in that tragic land were shocked and outraged at the latest atrocities which the terrorists on both sides have committed.

On Saturday, October 23, the IRA carried out a savage bombing of a fish shop on the Shankill Road, a Protestant area of Belfast. One of the 10 people murdered in that bombing was Leanne Murray, a thirteen year old Protestant girl who had gone there to shop for her mother. Her story was told on an especially poignant segment of ABC's "World News Tonight" last week.

What is especially heart-breaking about Leanne's death is that her young life was already a hopeful example of the possibility of peace in Northern Ireland. In her own way, she was breaking through the sectarian divide which serves no purpose but to breed hate and mistrust between the Protestant and Catholic traditions of Northern Ireland.

Leanne spent the summer of 1993 in the United States as part of a program to bring Catholic and Protestant children together. While here in this country, she became friends with Roisin Coulter, a Catholic girl, who is also from Belfast and whom Leanne was unlikely to meet in the divided condition of Northern Ireland today. But these two young girls became friends in the United States and now one of them has died.

-more-

-2-

Gina Murray, Leanne's mother, put it eloquently when she said: "If people could be like Roisin and Leanne, it would be a better place. Leanne would still be here." I hope all those involved in this senseless violence will hear Mrs. Murray's words and heed them.

Tragically, the atrocity committed by the IRA has been answered with equally inexcusable killings of Catholics by Protestant paramilitary groups seeking revenge. Last Saturday, seven people were killed when these paramilitaries indiscriminately opened fire on a Halloween party in a bar not far from Derry.

Despite this latest surge in the violence that has scarred Northern Ireland for so long, there are hopeful signs based on recent peace initiatives.

On October 27, Ireland's Foreign Minister, Dick Spring gave an important speech setting out six principles for peace in Northern Ireland. On October 29, British Prime Minister John Major and Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds met in Brussels and pledged to renew the peace process. On October 30, President Clinton issued a statement condemning the violence and reiterating the United States' willingness to support efforts to bring peace to Northern Ireland. And yesterday, Prime Minister Major announced that he will be meeting -- in the near future -- with each of the constitutional party leaders in Northern Ireland. I welcome all of these efforts.

Mr. Spring's speech is a timely and eloquent articulation of what is required to move toward peace in Northern Ireland and I commend his efforts to bring an end to the bloodshed. His statement recognizes that the status of Northern Ireland should not be altered without the consent of the majority of the people in Northern Ireland. That means no change will occur without the concurrence of the Unionist community. Mr. Spring also opens the door to the real possibility that the Republic of Ireland will remove from its constitution -- at the appropriate time -- those parts which lay claim to Northern Ireland. He also calls for an immediate end to the violence. Only by laying down their guns and bombs can those now engaged in violence become part of the search for peace.

These recent developments offer rays of hope as the search for peace goes on. The appalling recent violence is not a permanent setback. I urge those on all sides who seek peace to redouble their efforts, and I am confident that the United States stands ready to help in any way possible.

-30-

14

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 30, 1993

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I welcome the efforts of Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds and British Prime Minister John Major to reinvigorate the negotiations for peace in Northern Ireland. I join their condemnation of the use of violence for political ends and strongly support their commitment to restart talks among their two governments and the four constitutional parties of Northern Ireland. Their joint statement issued yesterday in Brussels underscores their common resolve to work for peace, justice and reconciliation in Northern Ireland. The United States stands ready to support this process in any appropriate way.

All friends of peace were outraged at the tragic and senseless IRA bombing in Belfast on October 23 and the ensuing violence. Especially in the wake of such action, we must redouble our efforts to reject violence and pursue the path of peace. As we remember the victims of the sectarian violence that has torn the region for too long, let us work together to ensure that the vision of the two Governments demonstrated in their joint statement bears lasting fruit.

M. Nolan
[Signature]