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**Reference Code:** 2021/96/10

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from the office of

# Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts

PST 7 Jul 84

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ALICE O'HANRAHAN

AT FINCHLEY

DC MANCHESTER

SECRETARIAT

EMBASSY OF IRELAND

LONDON

COMPASS

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### STATEMENT OF SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY ON THE IRA ANNOUNCEMENT OF A COMPLETE CESSATION OF MILITARY OPERATIONS

For Immediate Release  
August 31, 1994

Contact: Pam Hughes  
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I welcome today's announcement by the IRA of a complete cessation of military operations. Today is a joyous and hopeful day for all of Ireland and for all the Irish people.

Friends of Ireland everywhere have waited more than a quarter century for the violence to stop in Northern Ireland, and I hope today's historic announcement marks the end of the bloodshed and the beginning of a process that will lead, as soon as possible, to lasting peace, reconciliation and prosperity for all the people of Ireland.

I commend all those who have worked tirelessly for this day. John Hume, as leader of the Social and Democratic Labour Party in Northern Ireland, has spent his life working to bring to Northern Ireland, not only peace, but tolerance and cooperation between the two communities. His talks in the past year with Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams were the catalyst which led to today's breakthrough.

The Irish and British Prime Ministers, Albert Reynolds and John Major also deserve a great deal of credit. Both placed peace for Northern Ireland at the top of their agendas and their efforts are deservedly proving successful.

I especially want to commend Gerry Adams for his courageous commitment to bringing an end to the Republican violence. Mr. Adams played, and will continue to play, a central role in this process.

I commend President Clinton for his own leadership on this issue, especially in granting the visa to Gerry Adams last January, which became a critical milestone in leading to today's historic announcement. I also commend Ambassador Smith in Dublin who has worked effectively to reach out to all sides on this complex issue and encourage greater understanding.

In addition, Senator Moynihan, Senator Dodd and Senator Pell have provided outstanding assistance and leadership. Also deserving much credit is a group of Irish-American leaders -- Niall O'Dowd, Bill Flynn, Bruce Morrison and Chuck Faeney -- who, as private individuals committed to peace, have played an important role. Most recently, they visited Northern Ireland to discuss potential support for the peace initiative, such as economic and job-creating investment in Northern Ireland, which Irish-Americans can provide if the violence ends.

Today is certainly a day for celebration, but it is also a day to begin the serious work that will make peace permanent. First and foremost, the cessation must be adhered to by the IRA. Furthermore, violence by Loyalist paramilitary groups must also end.

I am also hopeful that responsible political leaders in the Loyalist community will embrace this historic opportunity to achieve a peaceful way forward for both communities.

I will continue to work with President Clinton, the Irish and British Governments, and the leaders in Northern Ireland to assure that a lasting peace is finally achieved as soon as possible.

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

AUGUST 31, 1994

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

SECRET  
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I welcome today's watershed announcement by the IRA that it has decided to end the 25-year campaign of violence and pursue the path of peace. While much work remains to be done, the IRA's decision to join the political process can mark the beginning of a new era that holds the promise of peace for all the people of Northern Ireland.

I have just spoken with Prime Minister Albert Reynolds of Ireland and Prime Minister John Major of the United Kingdom to congratulate them for their persistent efforts to bring this day about. Their joint resolve to end the violence and pursue a negotiated settlement has been crucial to the progress made to date. Their historic Joint Declaration last December, together with the Anglo-Irish agreement of 1985, have built the foundation for the new hope we have today. I am pleased that the United States has been able to contribute to this process of reconciliation.

We join with the governments of Ireland and the United Kingdom in the hope and expectation that today's step will help bring a lasting and just peace to Northern Ireland. I urge the IRA and all who have supported it to fulfill the promise of today's announcement to end the use and support of violence, just as we continue to call on all parties who have sought to achieve political goals through violence to cease to do so. There must be a permanent end to the violence.

The United States continues to stand ready to assist in advancing the process of peace in Northern Ireland. We hope that both traditions -- Unionist and Nationalist -- will support the only real avenue to peace, that of a negotiated settlement to the conflict.

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