

An Chartlann Náisiúnta
National Archives

Reference Code:	2021/51/599
Creator(s):	Department of Foreign Affairs
Accession Conditions:	Open
Copyright:	National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

cc Secty cc d Rtn cc BB

AMBASÁID NA hÉIREANN
TELEPHONE: (202) 462-3939
FAX: (202) 232-5993

EMBASSY OF IRELAND
2234 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N.W.

PST, PSS
S/S Ó hUiginn
Counsellors A-I Section
Messrs. Teahon, Donlon & Dalton
Ambassadors London & ~~Washington~~
Joint Secretary

SECURE FAX NO: SF 74

16 JUNE 1997

TO HQ
FOR COLM O'FLOINN

FROM WASHINGTON
FROM P HENNESSY

Copied to Secretary O hUiginn, Amsterdam

LURGAN MURDERS

1. The attached statement was issued this afternoon by Senator Kennedy. It contains an unambiguous warning to Sinn Féin–"now is the moment of truth"–that the twin-track strategy of violence and dialogue can no longer be maintained: Sinn Féin must either produce a ceasefire, or else disassociate themselves entirely from those intent on pursuing a military option.

2. The unusually forthright terms of the statement reflect the enormous sense of exasperation and frustration felt by the Senator and his advisers. Our contacts on the Hill this morning indicate that this sentiment is very widely shared.

3. We know from the White House, with whom we have been in contact, that work is continuing on a draft statement by the President, which is also expected to be in strong terms. In the course of these exchanges, we have been asked if Deputy Bertie Ahern is likely to proceed with his planned meeting with the Sinn Féin leader.

[Total no of pages: 2]

©DFA/2021/51/599

from the office of

Senator Edward M. Kennedy

of Massachusetts

STATEMENT OF SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY ON TODAY'S MURDERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

For Immediate Release
June 16, 1997

Contact: Kathy McKiernan
(202) 224-2633

I am sickened and outraged by today's murders by the IRA. There is no justification whatever for these continuing atrocities.

For many months, the British and Irish Governments and friends of Ireland in the United States have been working in good faith to achieve negotiations that would include Sinn Fein, on the basis of an unequivocal restoration of the IRA cease-fire.

Sinn Fein's improved showing in the recent elections in Northern Ireland and Ireland was a vote of confidence in the peace process and an end to violence in Northern Ireland, not a vote for the IRA's track record of terror.

Sinn Fein and the IRA cannot have it both ways. It is up to the advocates of the peace process within the Republican movement to face up to their responsibility and bring about an immediate restoration of the cease-fire. Failure to do so means either they support the violence, or they are unable to prevent it.

Now is the moment of truth for Sinn Fein. They must produce a cease-fire, or else join in condemning the violence and disassociate themselves completely from all those who continue to commit or condone those wanton acts of terrorism.

###

©DFA/2021/51/599

AMBASÁID NA hÉIREANN
TELEPHONE: (202) 462-3939
FAX (202) 232-5993

EMBASSY OF IRELAND
2234 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008

PST, PSS
S/S Ó hUiginn
Counsellors A-I Section
Messrs. Teahon, Donlon & Dalton
Ambassadors London & ~~Washington~~
Joint Secretary

FAX

IMMEDIATE

16 JUNE 1997

TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON
FOR CO'FLOINN FROM P HENNESSY

Please copy AI, Press.
WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT
Further to our previous message, please find attached text of the statement by the President following the killings in Lurgan.

©DFA/2021/51/599

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release June 16, 1997

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Murder of Policemen in Northern Ireland

I am outraged by the callous murder by the IRA of two policemen in Northern Ireland. I condemn this brutal act of terrorism in the strongest possible terms. There can be no reason, no excuse for these vicious crimes. I extend my deepest sympathy to the families of the two slain officers.

There is nothing patriotic or heroic about these cowardly killings. The overwhelming majority of the people of Ireland, North and South, join me in repudiating violence and murder. They know that a just and lasting peace is only possible through painstaking dialogue and negotiation. Further violence can only play into the hands of those responsible for the vicious murders of the two policemen. The true heroes and patriots are the many people of both communities who work tirelessly and peacefully for reconciliation and understanding. I will continue to do all I can to support their efforts and the efforts of the political leaders participating in the Belfast peace talks.

###

©DFA/2021/51/599