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Taoiseach
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For:	Sec Ó Ceallaigh,
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Date:	June 30, 2000

SEEN BY TAOISEACH

Subject: **Senate Resolution on Patten**

Pages: 7

1. Attached is the Resolution that Senator Kennedy will introduce on the floor of the Senate later today, in the early afternoon, together with the speech he will make. The draft resolution is unchanged from the corrected version you already have. As well as Senator Dodd, Senators Leahy (D-VT) and Mack (R-FL) have also come on board. Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) may yet add her name. Kennedy was anxious to have more than one Republican Senator, if at all possible.

2. The speech is intended to be short and strike much the same concise and factual tone as the resolution. The procedure remains the same, namely, that a vote in the Senate would not be taken but that the resolution would be referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. It would have achieved the desired effect, of a warning about implementation, simply by being introduced.

END

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Ted Kennedy

"NO BULLETS"

STATEMENT OF SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY
ON POLICE REFORM IN NORTHERN IRELAND
JUNE 29, 2000

Mr. President, today Senators Dodd, Leahy, Mack, and I are introducing a resolution on police reform in Northern Ireland.

Policing has long been a contentious issue in Northern Ireland. The deep historical divisions in Northern Ireland have, according to the April 19, 1998 Good Friday Agreement, made policing "highly emotive, with great hurt suffered and sacrifices made by many individuals and their families."

The Good Friday Agreement presented an historic opportunity to create a new police service that is accountable, impartial, representative, based on respect for human rights, and that works in constructive partnership with the entire community. It provided for the establishment of an Independent Commission on Policing to make recommendations for Northern Ireland, including ways to encourage widespread community support for the police. The Commission, chaired by Sir Christopher Patten, concluded its work on September 9, 1999, and issued a final report with 175 recommendations to ensure a new beginning for policing in Northern Ireland.

On May 5, a joint letter by the British Prime Minister and the Irish Prime Minister stated that "legislation to implement the Patten report will, subject to Parliament, be enacted by November 2000." On May 16, the British Government published its proposed legislation to implement in law the Patten report.

Unfortunately, the draft bill does not live up to the letter or spirit of the Patten report. It dilutes or does not implement many of its key recommendations. Northern Ireland's main nationalist parties and representatives of the Catholic Church are deeply concerned about the proposed legislation, and they have indicated that they will not participate or encourage participation in the new policing structures unless the Patten report is fully implemented. I ask unanimous consent that documents outlining concerns with the draft legislation may be included in the Record at the end of my remarks.

British Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Peter Mandelson, has recognized that the bill "will need fine tuning" as it proceeds through the Parliament. On June 15, he said, "I remain absolutely determined to implement the Patten recommendations and to achieve the effective and representative policing service -- accepted in every part of Northern Ireland -- that his report aimed

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to secure."

The resolution we are introducing today expresses the Sense of the Senate that the full and speedy implementation of the recommendations of the Independent Commission on Policing for Northern Ireland holds the best hope of ensuring that the police service in Northern Ireland will gain the support of both nationalists and unionists and that "policing structures and arrangements are such that the police service is fair and impartial, free from partisan political control, accountable ... to the community it serves, representative of the society that it polices... [and] complies with human rights norms," as mandated by the Good Friday Agreement. It calls upon the British Government to fully and faithfully implement the recommendations contained in the Patten Commission report.

The Patten report explicitly "warned in the strongest terms against cherry-picking from this report or trying to implement some major elements of it in isolation from others." Section 403 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act (as enacted in the Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY2000, P.L. 106-113) requires President Clinton to certify that the British and Irish governments are committed to assisting in the full implementation of the Patten recommendations before the Federal Bureau of Investigation or any other federal law enforcement agency can provide training for the Royal Ulster Constabulary. It would be extremely unfortunate if the shortcomings in the policing bill prevent President Clinton from making this certification.

Police reform is essential in Northern Ireland to ensure fairness and to strengthen the peace process. The Patten report has the potential to create a genuine new police service that will have and deserve the trust of all the people in Northern Ireland. It would be a tragedy if this opportunity to achieve a new beginning in policing is lost. I urge the Senate to approve this resolution.

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106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. ____

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. Leahy, Mr. Mack

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. DODD) submitted the following resolution; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on ____

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to the peace process in Northern Ireland.

Whereas the April 10, 1998 Good Friday Agreement established a framework for the peaceful settlement of the conflict in Northern Ireland;

Whereas the Good Friday Agreement stated that it provided "the opportunity for a new beginning to policing in Northern Ireland with a police service capable of attracting and sustaining support from the community as a whole";

Whereas the Good Friday Agreement provided for the establishment of an Independent Commission on Policing to make "recommendations for future policing arrangements in Northern Ireland including means of encouraging widespread community support for these arrangements";

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Whereas the Independent Commission on Policing, led by Sir Christopher Patten, concluded its work on September 9, 1999 and proposed 175 recommendations in its final report to ensure a new beginning to policing, consistent with the requirements in the Good Friday Agreement;

Whereas the Patten report explicitly "warned in the strongest terms against cherry-picking from this report or trying to implement some major elements of it in isolation from others";

Whereas section 405 of the Admiral James W. Nance and Meg Donovan Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001 (as contained in H.R. 3427, as enacted by section 1000(a)(7) of Public Law 106-113, and as contained in appendix G to such Public Law) requires President Clinton to certify, among other things, that the Governments of the United Kingdom and Ireland are committed to assisting in the full implementation of the recommendations contained in the Patten Commission report issued on September 9, 1999 before the Federal Bureau of Investigation or any other Federal law enforcement agency can provide training for the Royal Ulster Constabulary;

Whereas a May 5, 2000, joint letter by the British Prime Minister and the Irish Prime Minister stated that "legislation to implement the Patten report will, subject to Parliament, be enacted by November 2000";

Whereas on May 16, 2000 the British Government published the proposed Police (Northern Ireland) bill, which purports to implement in law the Patten report;

Whereas many of the signatories to the Good Friday Agreement have stated that the draft bill does not live up to

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the letter or spirit of the Patten report and dilutes or does not implement many key recommendations of the Patten Commission;

Whereas Northern Ireland's main nationalist parties have indicated that they will not participate or encourage participation in the new policing structures unless the Patten report is fully implemented; and

Whereas on June 15, 2000, British Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Peter Mandelson said, "I remain absolutely determined to implement the Patten recommendations and to achieve the effective and representative policing service, accepted in every part of Northern Ireland, that his report aimed to secure": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the parties for progress to date in implementing all aspects of the Good Friday Agreement and urges them to move expeditiously to complete the implementation;

(2) believes that the full and speedy implementation of the recommendations of the Independent Commission on Policing for Northern Ireland holds the promise of ensuring that the police service in Northern Ireland will gain the support of both nationalists and unionists and that "policing structures and arrangements are such that the police service is fair and impartial, free from partisan political control, accountable . . . to the community it serves, representative of the society that it polices . . . [and]

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complies with human rights norms", as mandated by the Good Friday Agreement; and

(3) calls upon the British Government to fully and faithfully implement the recommendations contained in the September 9, 1999, Patten Commission report on policing.

JUN 30 2000 12:52 FR SENATOR KENNEDY

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