



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

RICHARD E. NEAL
SECOND DISTRICT
MASSACHUSETTS

JEH

John Kerr won't pull his punches
in refuting this electioneering

file
29/7

July 23, 1996

The Right Honorable John Major
Prime Minister
The British Embassy
3100 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C.

Dear Prime Minister Major:

We are writing to express our deep concern over the most recent events in Northern Ireland which have placed the peace process in grave jeopardy. The return of sectarian violence has saddened those on both sides of the Atlantic who have worked tirelessly to bring peace and justice to that troubled island. While we remain hopeful that both governments and all-parties can restore confidence and trust, we do have serious questions over decisions that preceded and followed the stand-off at Drumcree.

In particular, we wish to condemn in the strongest possible terms, the decision of the British government and the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) to allow Orange Order marches to proceed through predominantly Catholic neighborhoods in Portadown and Belfast triggering the worst violence in Northern Ireland in generations. At best, the annual marches along the Garvaghy Road and the Ormeau Road are insensitive and irresponsible. At worst, they are provocative displays of triumphalism which have historically led to conflict and violence. It is our belief that those who forced the government and the RUC to capitulate to the threats of the Orangemen, including Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) leader David Trimble, must be held accountable for their shameful actions.

We are equally concerned about the appalling lack of police protection in the nationalist neighborhoods following the Orange marches that resulted in many Catholic families being intimidated, harassed and burned out of their homes. Quite simply, the actions of the British government and the RUC over the past ten days have reinforced nationalist's fears of discrimination, lack of democratic and human rights and second-class citizenship. We join the Taoiseach John Bruton, Social Democratic and Labor Party (SDLP) leader John Hume, and Cardinal Cahal Daly in expressing our outrage over the RUC's failure to protect both communities equally.

1. cc (fax)

Mr. Hayden, No 10
Mr. Bond, Cab. O
Mr. Stephens, No 10
Mr. Patten, Fco

2. Mr. McDonald

(two)
No 10, have
agreed that the
Ambassador
should reply to
all these
Congressmen on the
PM's behalf.

JHE
25/7

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The undersigned Members of Congress have been outspoken supporters of the Mitchell Principles. We have strongly condemned both nationalist and loyalist paramilitary violence. We firmly believe that a permanent and peaceful settlement can only be achieved through direct dialogue between all-political parties with a political mandate. But the spectacle of forced Orange Order marches through Catholic neighborhoods, David Trimble meeting with known terrorists and the RUC's blatant double standard leaves many of us deeply concerned about the future of the peace process.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Hall

Thomas J. Manton

Jim Walsh

Joe Moakley

William J. Keefe

Mary Wickham

Edward J. Markey

Joe Kennedy

Viola Loney

Bob Menendez

Don Rumsfeld

Maurice Dineen

Chris Martin

Steve Blute

R. J. Torricelli

Neil Abernethy

Donald W. Payne

William J. Coyne

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~~Ray L. Anderson~~

R1 R1.

~~Mr. J. Contetta~~
~~Ben. Sullivan~~~~Michael R. McNulty~~
Charles Schumer~~Lib. E. Tuller~~

Louise, daughter

~~CP. Die Rose~~

Ronald V. Sell

~~Cal. P. Maly~~

J. M. G. G. G.

~~(17-04)~~

B. B. D. Angel

~~Jim Moran~~

Howard V. Berman

~~John McHugh~~

Christopher Shays

~~John W. Kelly~~

Tom Lantos

~~Pike Doyle~~

John W. Oler

~~Frank Mascare~~

Ray D. Burnett

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E. Engel

Enid Engel

Long Henry

W. Hollenbeck

1 Jewel Roller

John P. [Signature]

John J. Kennedy

Mike Ward

Susan Molinari

Sam Levin

Bug Frank