



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

RICHARD E. NEAL  
SECOND DISTRICT  
MASSACHUSETTS

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 proceeded 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 predominately Catholic neighborhoods in Portadown and Belfast triggering the worst violence in Northern Ireland in a generation. 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 confrontation 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.



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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. Neal

Jim Walsh

JAMES WALSH

John J. Walsh

Edward J. Marking

Rita Loney

Dick Zinn

Bill Martin

Rt. Hon. Sir

Donald Wayne

Thomas J. Manton

THOMAS MANTON

Joe Moakley

JOHN MOAKLEY

Martin J. Meehan

MARTIN MEEHAN

Joe Kennedy

JOSEPH KENNEDY

Bob Mearns

Maurice Hinchey

MAURICE HINCHEY

Pete Blute

PETER BLUTE

Neil Abernethy

NEIL ABERNETHY

William J. Coyne

WILLIAM COYNE

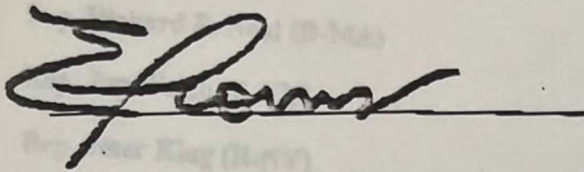


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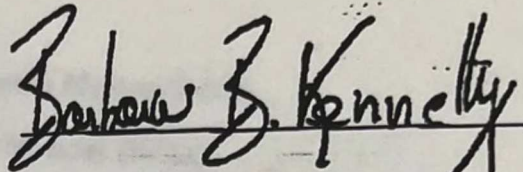
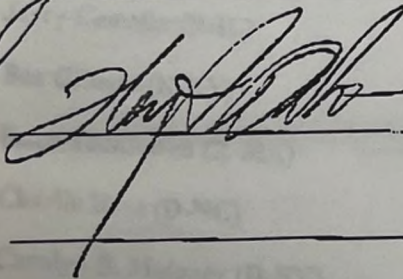
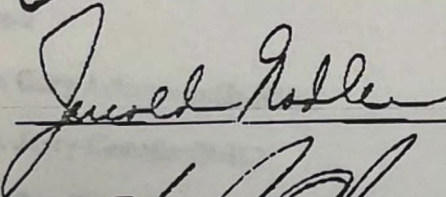
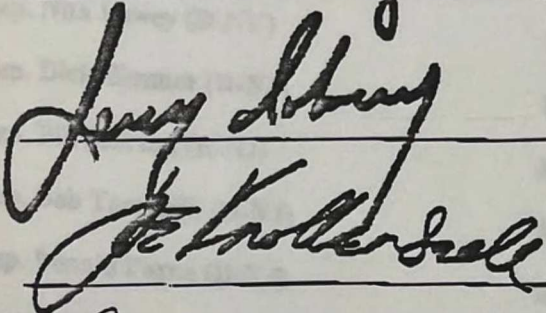
George A. BrownPA 31.Wm J CostelloMichael R. McNultySen SullivanCharles SchumerPat C. TullyLouise, daughterPaulie RoseRonald V. BellCh B. MolyPaul Guyer(17-04)CB DangelLisa MoranIsrael V. BermanJohn McHughChapman ShaysSen W. KellyTom LantosMike DoyleJohn W. OlerFrank MascaraAg. DiMato



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Eliot L. Engel



Mike Ward

Susan Molinari

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