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TO PRIORITY F C O

TELNO 1395 OF 5 MAY 1981,

AND TO NIO BELFAST, NIO LONDON,

INFO ROUTINE DUBLIN,

INFO SAVING ALL CONSULATES-GENERAL IN US.

NORTHERN IRELAND HUNGER STRIKE.

1. SENATOR KENNEDY ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT AFTER SANDS' DEATH:

BEGINS: I AM DEEPLY SADDENED BY THE DEATH OF BOBBY SANDS, AND I SEND MY HEARTFELT PRAYERS TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY.

HIS DEATH IS A SAD DAY FOR IRELAND AND FOR ALL WHO SEEK PEACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND AN END TO VIOLENCE THAT HAS CLAIMED SO MANY LIVES AND HAS SCARRED SO MANY MORE IN RECENT YEARS.

AT THIS TIME OF HEIGHTENED TENSION, I URGE ALL SIDES IN NORTHERN IRELAND TO RESIST CALLS FOR FURTHER VIOLENCE. IT WILL ONLY COMPOUND THIS LATEST TRAGEDY IF, OUT OF REACTIONS OF DESPERATION OR MOTIVES OF VENGEANCE, THE DEATH OF BOBBY SANDS SPARKS A NEW ROUND OF SENSELESS KILLING AND DESTRUCTION.

EACH NEW DEATH IN NORTHERN IRELAND IS ANOTHER DEATH TOO MANY. MORE THAN TWO THOUSAND CITIZENS HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE PRESENT ROUND OF VIOLENCE AND TERROR THAT HAVE PLAGUED THE PROVINCE SINCE 1969.

IF THE PAINFUL END OF THIS TRAGIC HUNGER STRIKE IS TO HAVE ANY HOPEFUL OR LASTING MEANING, SURELY IT IS THE LESSON THAT TOO MANY PEOPLE HAVE DIED. THE TIME HAS COME FOR ALL THOSE OF GOOD WILL ON BOTH SIDES OF THE COMMUNITY IN NORTHERN IRELAND — THE VAST MAJORITY OF PROTESTANTS AND CATHOLICS — TO DENOUNCE THE VOICES OF BIGOTRY, TO RENOUNCE THE PATH OF TERRORISM AND EXTREMISM, AND TO JOIN TOGETHER NOW IN A NEW AND MORE DEDICATED SEARCH FOR A COMMON PEACEFUL FUTURE.

/I COMMEND

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I COMMEND THE MANY PERSONS WHO WORKED SO HARD IN RECENT DAYS IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND IN MANY OTHER LANDS IN THE SEARCH FOR A PEACEFUL AND HUMANITARIAN RESOLUTION OF THIS HUNGER STRIKE. I REGRET VERY MUCH THAT THE BRAVE INTERCESSION OF THE HOLY FATHER AND THE HOPEFUL INITIATIVE BY THE MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS DID NOT SUCCEED.

IN THE DISTRESS OF THE MOMENT, WE MUST NOT IGNORE THE FACT THAT THREE OTHER PRISONERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND ARE NEARING A CRITICAL PHASE IN THEIR OWN HUNGER STRIKES. WE MUST NOT YIELD TO TERRORISM. BUT WE ALSO MUST NOT YIELD TO IMPULSES OF INTRANSIGENCE THAT CAN ONLY FAN THE FLAMES OF GREATER TERRORISM.

I URGE THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAS CLEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR PRISON ADMINISTRATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND, TO ACT ON AN URGENT BASIS TO END ITS POSTURE OF INFLEXIBILITY, AND TO IMPLEMENT REASONABLE REFORMS CAPABLE OF ACHIEVING A HUMANITARIAN SETTLEMENT OF THE OTHER HUNGER STRIKES, SO THAT THE TRAGEDY OF BOBBY SANDS IS NOT REPEATED.

THE DEATH OF BOBBY SANDS IS A SYMPTOM OF A DEEPER CRISIS — A CRISIS THAT WILL GO ON AND ON AND ON IN NORTHERN IRELAND, UNTIL THE GOVERNMENT OF GREAT BRITAIN, THE GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND, AND ALL WHO TRULY SEEK AN END TO VIOLENCE CARE ENOUGH TO SPEAK AND WORK FOR PEACE.

ENDS. !

HENDERSON

[THIS TELEGRAM WAS NOT ADVANCED]

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