

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

House of Representatives
Assistant Majority Leader
State House, Boston

MARIE E. HOWE
31ST MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
19 PEMBROKE STREET
SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

May 12, 1981

R16

Committee on Rules,
Commerce and Labor
and Member of
John F. Kennedy
Memorial Commission

The Honorable Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London, England

Dear Prime Minister Thatcher,

I am appealing to you in the name of common decency to be flexible in your position with the prisoners of war in British occupied Ireland. We have now lost two brave Irishmen in your notorious Long Kesh concentration camp. In the name of God grant them their five demands!

The entire world is well aware of the intransigent position of your Government regarding this deplorable situation.

I am sure that you and your Government realize it is a situation that will not go away, and the more inflexible your Government becomes, the more diligent people like me will work to drive your Government out of Ireland.

I am enclosing a Resolution adopted unanimously by the one hundred and sixty member Massachusetts Legislature representing a population of eight million Massachusetts citizens taking note of the tragic death of Bobby Sands, a duly elected member of your Parliament and a committed Irish Nationalist.

Also, please note in the Resolution that the more your Government resists freedom and independence for Irish men and women, the more militant freedom loving Americans will become; as further demonstrated in the Massachusetts Resolution that your Government prefers bullets to the ballot box and "vindicating the Irish Republican Army in its claim that the resolution of political differences by recourse to arms is compelled."

It is important that you fully realize how devastating your inflexibility on the cause of Irish Freedom has become. Your Government can no longer get away with discrimination, torture and vilifying the Irish Republican Army.

Please note that the Massachusetts Legislature further stated in its Resolution that we "condemn the Government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for its insensitivity to the value of human life and the real issues of Ireland's divisive struggle, and wholeheartedly supports the ultimate objectives of the IRA."

Ms. Margaret Thatcher
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May 12, 1981

It is my wish that you will grant the five demands and that you will
move speedily for a total British withdrawal from Ulster.

Sincerely yours,

Marie Howe

MARIE E. HOWE
State Representative

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RESOLUTIONS ON THE DEATH OF THE RIGHT HONORABLE ROBERT SANDS,
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, PRISONER OF WAR
AND IRISH NATIONALIST.

WHEREAS, THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS LEARNED WITH DEEP REGRET AND GRIM FOREBODING OF THE TRAGIC DEATH OF BOBBY SANDS, M.P. AND COMMITTED IRISH NATIONALIST; AND

WHEREAS, JUST AS A RESISTER OF FASCISM ONCE WROTE THAT "A MAN'S MORAL WORTH IS ESTABLISHED ONLY AT THAT POINT WHERE HE IS PREPARED TO GIVE HIS LIFE FOR HIS CONVICTIONS", BOBBY SANDS' SELFLESS ACT OF CONSCIENCE, A SIXTY-SIX DAY HUNGER STRIKE IN SUPPORT OF IRA PRISONER DEMANDS FOR POLITICAL RECOGNITION BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, HAS ONCE AGAIN DEMONSTRATED TO THE WORLD THAT IRISH PATRIOTS, THE SPIRITUAL LEGATEES AND PRESERVERS OF IRELAND'S ANCIENT TRADITION OF NATIONHOOD, WILL ENDURE AND NEVER YIELD TO THE YOKE OF A TYRANNICAL, OCCUPYING FOREIGN POWER; AND

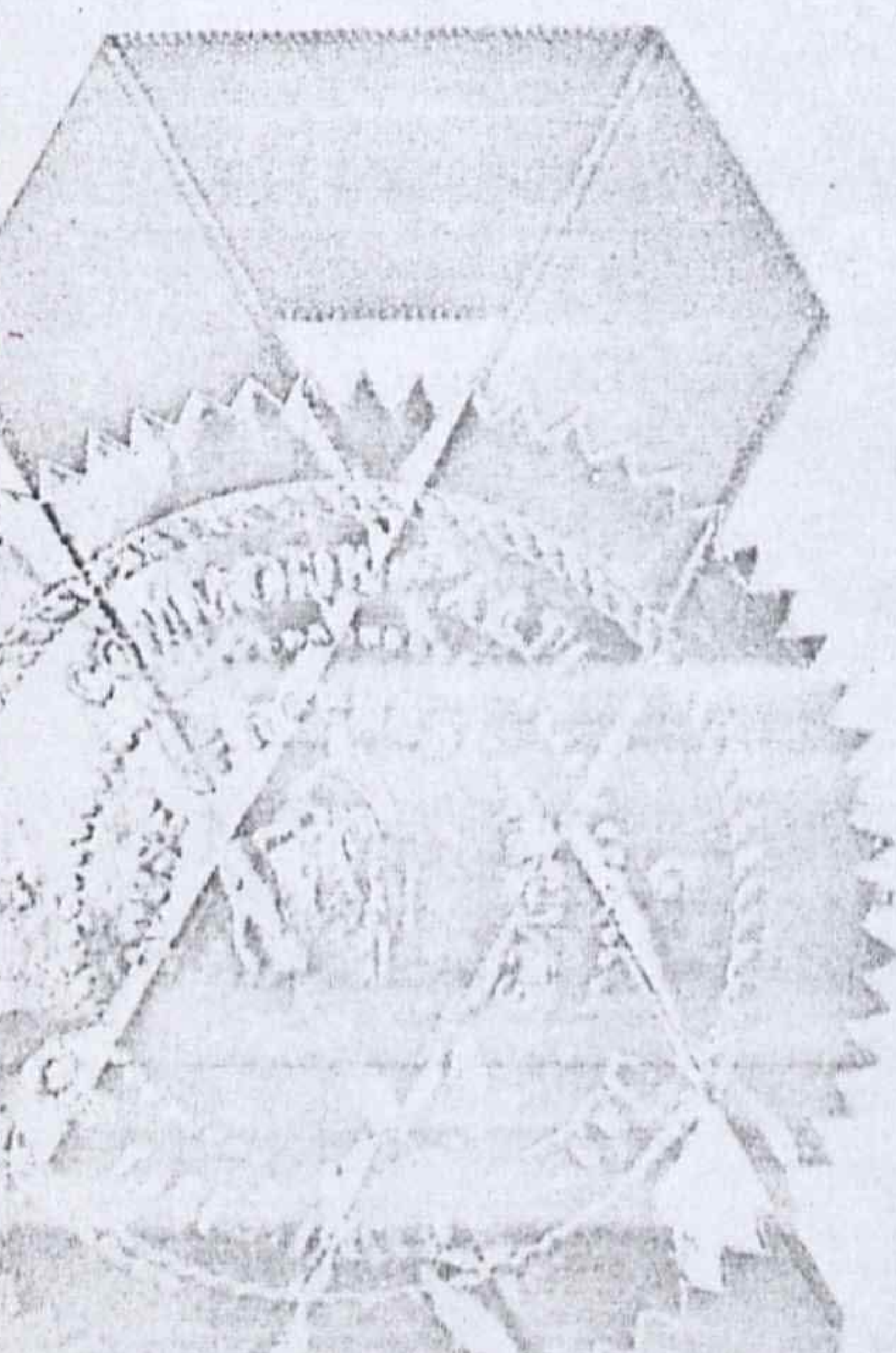
WHEREAS, DEFIANTLY SUPPORTED IN HIS STRUGGLE BY THE PEOPLE WHO ELECTED HIM TO PARLIAMENT YET PRECLUDED BY A HOSTILE GOVERNMENT FROM TAKING HIS SEAT, BOBBY SANDS, M.P. HAS DEMONSTRATED THE APPARENT FUTILITY OF RESORTING TO THE "SYSTEM" TO ADDRESS ONE'S GRIEVANCES IN AN UNDEMOCRATIC "NORTHERN IRELAND", THEREBY VINDICATING THE IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY IN ITS CLAIM THAT RESOLUTION OF POLITICAL DIFFERENCES BY RECOURSE TO ARMS IS COMPELLED; AND

WHEREAS, KEEPING FAITH WITH GENERATIONS OF IRISH MARTYRS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THE CHERISHED DREAM OF A UNITED IRELAND, THE IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE THE NATIONAL GOAL AND ULTIMATELY PREVAIL WITH THE UNFLAGGING SUPPORT OF A PERCEPTIVE AND SYMPATHETIC WORLD COMMUNITY; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE COMMONWEALTH, HEREBY EXTENDS TO THE FAMILY OF THE LATE AND HEROIC BOBBY SANDS ITS HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES IN THE HOUR OF THEIR BEREAVEMENT, CONDEMNS THE GOVERNMENT OF PRIME MINISTER MARGARET THATCHER FOR ITS INSENSITIVITY TO THE VALUE OF HUMAN LIFE AND THE REAL ISSUES OF IRELAND'S DIVISIVE STRUGGLE, AND WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORTS THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVES OF THE IRA; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT A COPY OF THESE RESOLUTIONS BE FORWARDED BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FAMILY OF THE LATE BOBBY SANDS, M.P., P.O.W.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, ADOPTED, MAY 7, 1981.


Thomas W. McGehee
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

Wallace C. Mills
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

OFFERED BY:

Marie E. Howe
REPRESENTATIVE MARIE ELIZABETH HOWE

Charles R. Doyle
REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES ROBERT DOYLE