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ETAT

PRIME MINISTER MARGARET THATCHER 10 DOWNING ST
LONDON SW1



DEAR PRIME MINISTER THATCHER

WE WANT YOU TO KNOW PERSONALLY OF OUR DEEP CONCERN OVER THE
SPECTRE OF WORSENING VIOLENCE AND TRAGEDY THAT THREATEN
TO ENGULF NORTHERN IRELAND AFTER THE DEATH OF BOBBY SANDS.

IN RECENT MONTHS WE HAVE PRAISED YOUR HOPEFUL INITIATIVE
WITH PRIME MINISTER HAUGHEY OF IRELAND AND WE HAVE LOOKED
FORWARD TO FURTHER PROGRESS IN SECURING A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF
THE CONFLICT THROUGHOUT THESE TRAGIC YEARS OF KILLING AND
DESTRUCTION IN NORTHERN IRELAND WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY AND UNEQUIVOCAL

LY CONDEMNED ALL VIOLENCE FROM ANY SOURCE
BUT WE QUESTION A POSTURE OF INFLEXIBILITY THAT MUST LEAD
INEVITABLY TO MORE SENSELESS VIOLENCE AND MORE NEEDLESS
DEATHS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

WE URGE YOU TO ACT NOW BEFORE ADDITIONAL LIVES ARE LOST TO
IMPLEMENT SENSIBLE AND REASONABLE REFORMS IN THE ADMINISTRATION
OF THE MAZE PRISON REFORMS THAT OFFER REAL HOPE OF ENDING THIS
VIOLENT IMPASSE AND ACHIEVING A PEACEFUL AND HUMANITARIAN
SETTLEMENT OF THE THREE HUNGER STRIKES THAT ARE NOW NEARING THE
POINT OF NOT RETURN

SURELY IT IS POSSIBLE TO COMPROMISE ON THE PRACTICAL ISSUES
OF PRISON ADMINISTRATION WITHOUT COMPROMISING IN ANY WAY ON THE
BASIC PRINCIPLE OF OPPOSITION TO VIOLENCE SURELY THE LEADERS
OF GREAT BRITAIN HAVE AN URGENT RESPONSIBILITY TO DO ALL
WITHIN THEIR POWER TO END THIS TRAGIC AND UNNECESSARY CRISIS

EDWARD M KENNEDY UNITED STATES SENATE

DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN UNITED STATES SENATE

THOMAS P ONEILL JR SPEAKER HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HUGH L CAREY GOVERNOR STATE OF NEWYORK

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