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426048

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 9, 2000

0081

Dear Ted:

Thank you for your letter regarding implementation of the Patten Report, which remains a critical step in securing the promise of the Good Friday Accord. Prime Minister Blair and I discussed Northern Ireland when we met in Okinawa, and he is fully aware of, and shares, my concern that the new police service enjoy widespread support from the community as a whole, as recommended by Patten.

As you and I discussed recently, the issue of police reform has -- unfortunately -- become embroiled in the broader political debate in Northern Ireland over implementation of the Accord. Opponents of the Accord seek to exploit the issue. In order to not lose momentum in the peace process, pro-Agreement unionists and nationalists must continue to engage with each other directly to understand and overcome their respective concerns. We are urging the parties to give this dialog their highest priority.

Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern discussed the Patten legislation in London on July 31, and their governments will continue to seek a solution to this problem. They know, as do the parties themselves, that I am prepared to help in any way I can.

Again, thank you for writing on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Bar

The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

00811

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 9, 2000

Dear Chris:

Thank you for your letter regarding implementation of the Patten Report, which remains a critical step in securing the promise of the Good Friday Accord. Prime Minister Blair and I discussed Northern Ireland when we met in Okinawa, and he is fully aware of, and shares, my concern that the new police service enjoy widespread support from the community as a whole, as recommended by Patten.

As you know, the issue of police reform has -- unfortunately -- become embroiled in the broader political debate in Northern Ireland over implementation of the Accord. Opponents of the Accord seek to exploit the issue. In order to not lose momentum in the peace process, pro-Agreement unionists and nationalists must continue to engage with each other directly to understand and overcome their respective concerns. We are urging the parties to give this dialog their highest priority.

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Again, thank you for writing on this important matter.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Christopher J. Dodd
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

000811

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ID 0004840

REFERRAL

DATE: 10 AUG 00

MEMORANDUM FOR: WH STRIPPING DESK

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: TO: KENNEDY, EDWARD M

SOURCE: PRESIDENT

DATE: 09 AUG 00

SUBJ: RESPONSE TO SEN KENNEDY & DODD RE PATTEN

REQUIRED ACTION: FOR DISPATCH

DUE DATE: 11 AUG 00

COMMENT:


FOR

JOHN W. FICKLIN

NSC RECORDS MANAGEMENT OFFICE