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NORTHERN IRELAND: REVOCATION OF PAISLEY'S VISA

1. IN RESPONSE TO BOSTON GLOBE EDITORIAL OF 23 DECEMBER CRITICISING REVOCATION OF VISA, SPEAKER O'NEILL AND SENATOR KENNEDY HAVE WRITTEN FOLLOWING JOINT LETTER TO GLOBE PUBLISHED TODAY. BEGINS

+ IN YOUR RECENT EDITORIAL, +PAISLEY'S VISA,+ YOU EXPRESS REGRET THAT WE JOINED IN THE SUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO URGE THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO INVALIDATE A VISA HELD BY IAN PAISLEY FOR TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES. IN FACT, THIS ACTION WAS ESSENTIAL TO REDUCE THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY CONDEMNED THE KILLING AND DESTRUCTION ON BOTH SIDES IN NORTHERN IRELAND, AND WE HAVE CALLED ON ALL AMERICANS TO AVOID ANY ACTION - BY WORD OR DEED OR DOLLAR - THAT CONTRIBUTES IN ANY WAY TO THE VIOLENCE. WE HAVE WELCOMED VISITS TO THIS COUNTRY BY RESPONSIBLE SPOKESMEN FOR BOTH THE IRISH CATHOLIC TRADITION AND THE IRISH PROTESTANT TRADITION.

BUT MR PAISLEY IS NOTORIOUS FOR HIS INCITEMENT OF VIOLENCE AND RELIGIOUS BIGOTRY IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND HIS RESISTANCE TO ANY AND ALL PROGRESS TOWARD A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE CONFLICT. HE WAS RECENTLY SUSPENDED FROM SERVING IN THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT BECAUSE OF HIS DISRUPTIVE ACTIVITIES ON THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. YOUR EDITORIAL ITSELF STATES THAT PAISLEY WOULD BE +SPEAKING AND RAISING FUNDS FOR WHAT HE CALLS 'THE PROTESTANT CAUSE,' +. THIS COULD PROVE TO BE ONE OF HIS MOST LETHAL ACTIVITIES -IN EFFECT SOLICITING AMERICAN DOLLARS FOR HIS CAUSE OF INTRANSIGENCE AND VIOLENCE AND CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEATHS OF INNOCENT IRISH CATHOLIC MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

/ AS READERS

AS READERS OF THE GLOBE ARE WELL AWARE, NOT ALL FORMS OF SPEECH ARE CONSTITUTIONALLY PROTECTED UNDER THE FIRST AMENDMENT OF THE UNITED STATES. IN OUR VIEW, PERMITTING IAN PAISLEY TO SPREAD HIS GOSPEL OF VIOLENCE IN THIS COUNTRY WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO PERMITTING HIM TO SHOUT +FIRE+ IN THE CROWDED THEATER OF NORTHERN IRELAND. WORSE STILL, AMERICANS WOULD NOT SEE THE BLOODY RESULTS IN BELFAST, DERRY AND OTHER CITIES AND TOWNS WHICH WOULD ENSUE FROM HIS VISIT HERE.

WE THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN AND HIS ADMINISTRATION MADE THE RIGHT DECISION TO PREVENT MR PAISLEY FROM SPREADING HIS SECTARIAN MESSAGE OF INTOLERANCE AND BRUTALITY IN THE UNITED STATES.

WHAT IS NEEDED IN NORTHERN IRELAND IS A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT BASED ON RECONCILIATION BETWEEN CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT COMMUNITIES. WHAT IS NOT NEEDED IS MORE OF THE DIVISION, INTIMIDATION AND OPPRESSION ADVOCATED BY EXTREMISTS SUCH AS PAISLEY.

THIS IS AN ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT TIME FOR NORTHERN IRELAND. THE STATESMANLIKE POSITION FOR THE UNITED STATES IS NOT TO STRENGTHEN THE POSITION OF THE MEN OF VIOLENCE BUT TO MAKE CLEAR THAT WE SUPPORT THE PEACEFUL AND MODERATE PATH TOWARDS A JUST SOLUTION FREELY AGREED TO BY BOTH SIDES OF THE COMMUNITY IN THAT LAND''. ENDS.

MCKEARNEY

[THIS TELEGRAM WAS NOT ADVANCED]

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