

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 173

Expressing support for the Good Friday Agreement of 1998 as the blueprint for lasting peace in Northern Ireland.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 16, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DODD, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. LEAHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the Good Friday Agreement of 1998 as the blueprint for lasting peace in Northern Ireland.

Whereas in 1998, the Good Friday Agreement, signed on April 10, 1998, in Belfast, was endorsed in a referendum by the overwhelming majority of people in Northern Ireland;

Whereas the parties to the Good Friday Agreement made a clear commitment to “partnership, equality, and mutual respect” as the basis for moving forward in pursuit of lasting peace in Northern Ireland;

Whereas the parties to the Good Friday Agreement also affirmed their “total and absolute commitment to exclusively democratic and peaceful means” in pursuit of lasting peace in Northern Ireland;

Whereas inclusive power-sharing based on these defining qualities is essential to the viability and advancement of the democratic process in Northern Ireland;

Whereas paramilitary and criminal activity in a democratic society undermines the trust and confidence that are essential in a political system based on inclusive power-sharing in Northern Ireland;

Whereas the United States Government continues to strongly support the peace process in Northern Ireland; and

Whereas the Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of Ireland continue to strongly support the Good Friday Agreement as the way forward in the peace process, and have committed themselves to its implementation: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved, That—*

2 (1) the Senate reiterates its support for the
3 Good Friday Agreement, signed on April 10, 1998,
4 in Belfast, as the blueprint for a lasting peace in
5 Northern Ireland; and

6 (2) it is the sense of the Senate that—

7 (A) the Irish Republican Army must imme-
8 diately—

9 (i) complete the process of decommis-
10 sioning;

11 (ii) cease to exist as a paramilitary or-
12 ganization; and

13 (iii) end its involvement in any way in
14 paramilitary and criminal activity;

1 (B) the Democratic Unionist Party in
2 Northern Ireland must—

3 (i) share power with all parties ac-
4 cording to the democratic mandate of the
5 Good Friday Agreement; and

6 (ii) commit to work in good faith with
7 all the institutions of the Good Friday
8 Agreement, which established an inclusive
9 Executive and the North-South Ministerial
10 Council, for the benefit of all the people of
11 Northern Ireland;

12 (C) Sinn Fein must work in good faith
13 with the Police Service of Northern Ireland;

14 (D) the leadership of Sinn Fein must insist
15 that those responsible for the murder of Robert
16 McCartney and those who were witnesses to the
17 murder—

18 (i) cooperate directly with the Police
19 Service of Northern Ireland; and

20 (ii) be protected fully from any retal-
21 iation by the Irish Republican Army; and

22 (E) the Government of the United King-
23 dom must—

24 (i) permanently restore the democratic
25 institutions of Northern Ireland;

- 1 (ii) complete the process of demili-
- 2 tarization in Northern Ireland; and
- 3 (iii) advance equality and human
- 4 rights agendas in Northern Ireland.

