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cc'd: Section

See 5/11.

124/3.

24/3

IRA murder of two RUC Detective Officers and Civilian Instructor at Magilligan Prison at Magee University College Campus last night

The above murders took place last night about 9.00 pm. The Civilian Instructor was shot and the two Detective Officers killed by a booby trapped car bomb explosion. This took place while evening classes were in progress at Magee (part of the University of Ulster). The killings were claimed by the Provisionals. The Taoiseach instructed early this morning that a statement should issue in time for the 9.00 am news. The statement is attached.

X It might be a good idea if the Tanaiste were to agree to short statements (on the lines of the attached statement and the previous statement issued after the murder of Constable Nesbitt and the bombings at his funeral) being issued automatically in his name whenever a member of the Northern Ireland security forces is killed on duty and the murder claimed by the paramilitaries.

Mr. Doonan

- Statement on every occasion
- short 'I condemn ... convey condolences' in normal course
- developed statements in very serious incidents

MS

Eamon O Tuathail
24 March 1987.

24/3

Note: I discussed with Tanaiste who instructed that we should proceed as at X but there should be a difference between very serious murders and less serious. i.e. for a standard statement for the latter and individual statements for the former

Corrected
AS

Statement for issue to the Press by the Tanaiste
and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Brian Lenihan

I strongly condemn the murders last night of Detective Inspector Austin Wilson, of Detective Sergeant John Bennison and of the civilian instructor from Magilligan prison - all three killed by the IRA at Magee College, Derry.

I am horrified at such callous murders.

X | I am conveying my deep sympathy through the Secretary of State to the bereaved families.

Issued to media before 9.00 am news on 24 March 1987.

Correction made at X and noted to be Stealyh
Copy for file.

[Signature]

24.3