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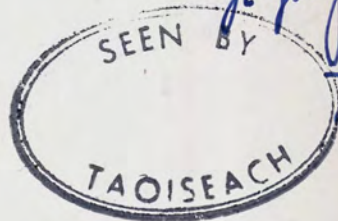
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*The Archbishop, Dublin (fax)  
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The Secy*

DRAFT STATEMENT (At 3.00 PM) 2 K to me pl *gww*

I will, with permission Mr Speaker, make a statement on yesterday's terrorist attack at the War Memorial in Enniskillen.

This occurred shortly before the parade arrived for the formal wreath-laying ceremony. I should explain to the House that the normal procedure in Enniskillen is that the parade forms up and marches to the War Memorial where the act of remembrance takes place and then marches to the Cathedral for the Remembrance Day service.

At 10.45 am, as spectators were gathering near the War Memorial, a bomb exploded in the St Michael's Reading Room, outside which a number of people were taking up their normal vantage point.

No warning whatsoever had been given. The explosion demolished the gable wall which fell, crushing the waiting spectators. 11 people were killed and more than 60 injured. Of the injured, 21 were detained in hospital overnight of whom 5 are very seriously injured. Among those killed are three elderly couples, a young nurse, and an off-duty policeman.

I know I speak on behalf of the whole House in expressing our deepest sympathy to those bereaved and injured and to all their relatives and friends, at this appalling outrage. I would like also to pay tribute to the absolutely outstanding way in which all the emergency services responded to their terrible task.

It is clear from the location chosen for the bomb and the absence of any warning that those responsible for this monstrous act set out deliberately to kill and maim ordinary members of the public: people from both communities who had come together on a Sunday morning, young and old, like thousands upon thousands of others throughout the United Kingdom, to honour the memory of those who have died in two world wars and since. In all the tragedy of the terrorist campaign, this outrage stands out in its awfulness. To perpetrate such an outrage against people, for many of whom the occasion was already one of sorrow and remembrance betrays a total lack of any human feeling. Nor could there have been a more deliberately provocative act, more calculated to stir up sectarian hatred than this outrage on this special and solemn day.

There is a deep sense of anger and outrage felt throughout Northern Ireland today. I know there will be many who will call for retaliation. I say to them most urgently that they must not be provoked. Further acts of violence will only play into the hands of the terrorists and make more difficult the task of the security forces. What we must do instead is to determine that every possible assistance is given to the RUC and the security forces in their continuing fight against terrorism and in particular to bring those responsible for this atrocious crime to justice, wherever they may be. There must be some who have in the past given tacit support to the terrorists or who have preferred too often to look the other way, who must surely be horrified at yesterday's outrage. If they or indeed anybody else have any information at all to identify the culprits, and if their revulsion at this terrible crime is genuine, then they must ensure that they give the RUC any help they can, whether by using the confidential telephone or by whatever means

Since my visit yesterday afternoon to Enniskillen, I have had initial meetings with the Chief Constable and also the General Officer Commanding and the Commander Land Forces. I shall be meeting them on my return to Northern Ireland. In addition, in the light of the serious recent events in the security field both north and south of the border and the successful seizure of the major arms shipment and the implications that flow from that, I will be having further urgent talks with Irish Ministers about security. In this connection I appreciate the strong message of support and co-operation my Rt Hon Friend, the Prime Minister, has received from the Taoiseach.

There are those who believe that this latest, most foul attack is a measure of the frustration of the terrorists in the light of the considerable recent successes of the security forces. Whatever their motive, it is true that the courage and resourcefulness of the security forces, backed up by the same courage and steadfastness of the community at large, and aided significantly by international co-operation, have inflicted severe blows on the terrorists. Nonetheless yesterday's outrage shows the evil threat they still pose and the vital need for the whole community to continue to stand steadfastly against them.

There are two messages that I wish the House to send today. The first is to the people of Northern Ireland of our resolve to stand firmly with them in the fight against terrorism and to assure them of our full support. The second is to make clear to the men of violence that no threat or outrage destroys our resolve but rather makes us all the more determined to rid the Province of the evil of terrorism.