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**Statement issued by the Government Information Bureau
on behalf of An Taoiseach.**

On behalf of the Government I wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the relatives of the innocent victims of to-day's tragedy. Whoever are responsible, whatever evil people planned and executed this malicious and cowardly deed can only have as their purpose the perpetuation of bitterness, hatred and fear in Northern Ireland.

When innocent people going about their lawful business, suddenly and unsuspectingly meet with violent death, with all the dire consequences for their families and the immeasurable sadness and hardship that death inevitably brings, all good and reasonable people must be repulsed and will condemn those responsible.

I do not know, who were involved and without trying to apportion blame I strongly condemn any group who advocate or use force, whether it be for the re-unification of our country or to maintain the status quo.

I believe that the reunification of our country will come about by peaceful means - I emphasise by peaceful means - as surely as night follows day. But whatever their views, I appeal to all Irish people, North and South, to denounce violence, to show Christian charity one to another, to try to understand the fears and the problems of their neighbours, to think of the future of their own families and the families of those who may now be their opponents and above all to refuse to be influenced by or co-operate with those, who, by resorting to destruction of life and property, seek to destroy society and contaminate the minds of the young generation.

9 February, 1971.