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The following statement has been issued by the Tánaiste on behalf of the Government:-

"It was with profound shock and regret that the Government learned of the boat explosion earlier today which resulted in the death of Earl Mountbatten of Burma, his Grandson and his boatman and in injuries to other members of his party. It is understood that subversive organisations have claimed responsibility for the explosion.

On behalf of the Government and of the Irish people, I wish to tender to those bereaved and injured our most sincere sympathy.

Assuming that Garda investigations substantiate claims of subversive involvement I know that all Irish people will join with me in condemning this cowardly and heartless outrage. No effort will be spared to bring those responsible to justice and I know that the people of County Sligo and throughout the country will give every possible assistance in the investigation.

Earl Mountbatten was a regular and welcome visitor to County Sligo with which his family had long been associated. His great personal qualities and his distinguished record as Statesman commanded the highest respect. His many friendships in this country were yet another testimony to the warm and neighbourly relations between Ireland and Britain which subversive organisations have sought in vain to disrupt."

The President has extended a message of condolence to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth on the death of her kinsman.

27 August, 1979.