



# An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

<b>Reference Code:</b>	2017/4/70
<b>Creation Dates:</b>	11 November 1987
<b>Extent and medium:</b>	3 pages
<b>Creator(s):</b>	Department of Foreign Affairs
<b>Accession Conditions:</b>	Open
<b>Copyright:</b>	National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.



PA Sec 53.13.plk

---

## NORTHERN IRELAND Information Service

---

11 November 1987

### STATEMENT BY THE RT HON TOM KING MP, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

"The discovery of the bomb at Tullyhommon, north of Pettigo on Remembrance Day has revealed the nauseating hypocrisy of the contemptible statement of regret issued on Monday by the IRA about the bomb at Enniskillen.

"If this massive bomb had detonated, as the IRA intended, it could have had only one result, the slaughter and maiming of over 50 children from the Boys' Brigade and Girls' Brigade, a hundred or more parents and friends, a local civilian pipe band, a small number of ex-Servicemen and a number of spectators who vastly outnumbered the small number of members of the security forces present. I understand that some residents of the Republic were also present.

"I know that all decent people in the Republic will share the feeling of horror that their country was to be desecrated by being used as the place from which to commit such an unspeakable act of murder against the whole community.

"Enniskillen and Tullyhommon are the ultimate confirmation, if any were needed, why we must work together and not rest until we have rid the whole island of Ireland of such evil men.

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 they choose.

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 again 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.