



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

Reference Code:	2017/10/33
Creation Dates:	25 April 1987
Extent and medium:	2 pages
Creator(s):	Department of the Taoiseach
Accession Conditions:	Open
Copyright:	National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

Decision by the
Speaker of the
Seanad
27/11/87

Statement in the Seanad by the Tanaiste and
Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Brian Lenihan, T.D.

to the Tanaiste

Murder of Lord Justice Gibson and Mrs. Gibson

BL

A Cathairleach,

It is with great regret that I have to inform the Seanad of the murder this morning of Lord Justice Gibson and Mrs. Gibson. Lord Justice Gibson and Mrs. Gibson had just travelled across the border on the Dundalk/Newry road when their car was blown up by an explosive device which killed Justice Gibson and his wife instantly.

Lord Justice Gibson had a long record of service in the Northern Ireland Judiciary. His murder is an act which all right-minded people who stand by justice and the rule of law must condemn as an outrage. The men of violence who perpetrate such acts have no wish to enhance the administration of justice but are set on subverting the democratic values on which our society north and south of the border is based. Today in a message that I have sent to the Secretary of State, Mr. King, I have assured him as I did also at the meeting of the Intergovernmental Conference in Belfast last Wednesday, that we intend through security cooperation to see that the perpetrators of all such acts of violence and terror throughout the island of Ireland are brought to justice and their evil intentions are frustrated.

A Cathairleach, I would ask that members of the Seanad join with me in a motion of sympathy to the relatives of Lord Gibson and Mrs. Gibson to the members of the Northern Ireland Judiciary and to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr. King.

2423m

Message from the Taoiseach to Prime Minister Thatcher

I was deeply shocked at the murder of Lord Justice and Mrs. Gibson this morning. I extend to you on behalf of the Irish Government sincerest sympathy. I want to assure you that the security forces will cooperate in every way possible to see that the perpetrators of all such acts of violence are brought to justice and that terror and violence in the island of Ireland will be brought to an end.

(This statement conveyed to Duty Officer, 10 Downing Street, early on Saturday afternoon by Embassy London and will be conveyed in written letter by Taoiseach to Mrs. Thatcher today)
Press not informed

Statement to the press by the Taoiseach, Mr. C. J. Haughey, T.D.

This horrible act must be condemned by every right-thinking person. It is almost beyond capacity of words to describe its cruelty, brutality and stupidity. In offering my heartfelt sympathy and that of the Irish Government to all the relatives and friends of those killed and injured, I wish to solemnly assure them that no effort will be spared in security cooperatioin to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Message from Tanaiste, Mr. Brian Lenihan, T.D., to Secretary of State King

I want you to know the horror and revulsion that I feel at the murder this monring of Lord Justice Gibson and Lady Gibson. This was a cowardly and savage act carried out by evil men. I want to express my sympathy to you and to all in your administration who knew personally Lord Justice and Lady Gibson and who valued Lord Justice Gibson's long record of service in the judiciary. I assure you that the Gardai will do everything possible to cooperate with the RUC to see that the perpetrators of all such acts of violence and terror in the island of Ireland are brought to justice.

(Passed through Secretariat on Saturday early afternoon)
Press given text