



# An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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**STATEMENT FROM** IRISH  
**RUC HEADQUARTERS** NEWS  
**REGARDING** 12/3/88  
**FORTHCOMING FUNERALS**  
**IN WEST BELFAST**

The RUC fully acknowledges that whatever the circumstances of death, there is grief and sorrow for the bereaved families. It is in this spirit of humanity that the RUC considers its position in respect of any funeral.

The RUC again states unreservedly that it has no wish whatsoever to intrude on the privacy or grief of bereaved families. The RUC's only desire is that funerals should take place in a peaceful, dignified and lawful manner, without the necessity for any Police involvement other than that sometimes required simply for traffic control purposes.

Regrettably, despite all the best efforts of the Police to achieve a decent and dignified outcome, some funerals have been manipulated and taken over by the subversive organisations for a paramilitary display of strength in defiance of the law. This can not be tolerated. The Police can not stand by and allow terrorists to flaunt their criminality with weapons and paramilitary persons — the same weapons and the same people involved in continuing murder and destruction in our community.

Turning now directly to the bereaved families of Mairead Farrell, Sean Savage and Daniel McCann, the RUC says to them personally: we wish you to bury your dead in peace. We ask you to state publicly and without qualification that the funerals will take place within the law and to give the RUC a public assurance that this will be adhered to. If you do so, the RUC will respond accordingly.

If, however, there is no such unqualified response or if it becomes evident that the Provisional IRA is determined to take over these funerals and to defy the law, then the RUC will have no choice but to do its duty, distasteful as it is in such circumstances.

11 March 1988



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