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Reference Code:	2018/28/2802
Creation Dates:	29 June 1988
Extent and medium:	1 page
Creator(s):	Department of Foreign Affairs
Accession Conditions:	Open
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1988-06-29 15:01 AISECT MARYFIELD

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INTERVIEW WITH EDDIE MCGRADY, RADIO ULSTER NEWS AT 1.00 p.m., 29 JUNE 1988

Interviewer: The IRA bombing of a school bus in Co. Fermanagh has put new pressure on the continuing talks between the SDLP and Sinn Fein. It is expected there will be another meeting between John Hume and Gerry Adams within the next ten days and that will now be set against a background of continuing violence including the murders of six soldiers in Lisburn earlier this month and yesterday's attack in Lisnaskea. The SDLP MP for South Down, Eddie McGrady has been talking to me this morning about those Sinn Fein discussions. He has already indicated the talks do not have his approval. I began by asking Mr. McGrady how he viewed the Sinn Fein expressions of regret at yesterday's injuries to young people.

McGrady: Well, I think this is gross hypocrisy. Sinn Fein issue these expressions of regret when they feel that the propaganda may go greatly against them but every incident should be an expression of regret. Every target, every person killed, every person injured should never have happened. They have no right to kill or injure people and so any expression of regret is sheer hypocrisy. If a person plants a bomb they are going to kill somebody, they intend to kill somebody, that is hypocrisy to say that is not their intention.

Interviewer: This incident takes place as talks between your party and Sinn Fein appear to be continuing. You have already indicated that those talks don't have your approval. Should they now be stopped in your view?

McGrady: Well, first of all I should say that one should not in any way connect a terrorist incident with the talks which are taking place, or indeed with any dialogue which is taking place. These horrific incidents take place independent, as it were, of them. But to answer your question, it certainly makes it very much more difficult for people of good will and, as is our own negotiating team, of total integrity trying to achieve a formula for peace; it makes their task very much more difficult to accomplish and to sustain.