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FOR: BRIGID BYRNE/EMBASSY, LONDON **FROM:** C. O'SHEA

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Reaction of politicians to today's Manchester bomb

15 June 1996

1. Prime Minister John Major
2. Peter Robinson
3. Tony Blair
4. Rev Ian Paisley
5. Gerry Adams
6. Joe Hendron
7. Tanaiste Dick Spring

COPY TO:

MR. O'DONNELL

MR. HICKEY

MR. BROSAN

MR. FAY

MR. BAILEY

John Major

What is absolutely clear is that this act by a handful of fanatics will be regarded with contempt and disgust right the way around the world, in the Irish Republic, in the United Kingdom and everywhere else as well and I hope the people who were responsible for this bomb will realise that every conceivable effort will be made to catch them, convict them and punish them for what they have done this morning in Manchester. People now know why Sinn Féin aren't involved in the peace talks, until such time as there's a complete and unequivocal ceasefire from the IRA. I think people will watch very clearly to see whether there is a clear cut an unequivocal condemnation of this action today by Mr Adams and by Sinn Féin. I expect there to be so and I hope he will do it swiftly and comprehensively.

Peter Robinson

The Provisional IRA decided some years ago that they would attempt to use another device which would complement their bombing and shooting campaign and that would quite simply be that they would use the threat of bombing and shooting as a means of extracting concessions and that was what their so called ceasefire was all about. It's one of a long list of IRA atrocities and very clearly indicated that the Provisional IRA have no interest in peace.

Tony Blair

I utterly condemn this disgraceful appalling act of terrorism. All our thoughts are with the victims. If the IRA think they can shift the resolve of any Government with this action, they are cruelly mistaken.

Ian Paisley

This was a devilish action and the suggestion that is being made to me is that they say this is the last before they call a ceasefire. Well, it that's the attitude of the people who want to be at the democratic negotiating table, I would say they have no place at that table, no place whatsoever and of course I will not sit down with them, nor negotiate with them. They have got to give up all their arms, all their weaponry and dismantle their killing machines.

Gerry Adams

Indeed now, with the unfolding events in Manchester, let's record in the first instance on a personal as well as a political level our shock and regret that people have been injured. Let's see exactly who was involved and let's tell the world that Sinn Féin's task and challenge - and it should be the task and challenge of all other political leaderships as well - is to seek the restoration of the peace process.

Joe Hendron

Why the Provos are doing this I just don't understand their mind set. It just does not make sense at all.

Tanaiste

This is an atrocious and callous act on the people of Manchester. The people who have brought this about are not acting in the name of, certainly not in the name of the Irish people either at home or abroad and it's a totally futile act in relation to our efforts and what we are trying to achieve on this island at the present time.