



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER

The admission by the Provisional IRA of responsibility for the Lisburn bombs is sickening. It shows they still rely on terrorist violence and are indifferent to human life. To return to violence at the same time as the Pittsburgh Investment Conference also makes clear they do not care about the future prosperity of Northern Ireland.

PIRA are trying to provoke a general return to violence in Northern Ireland. We must not let them succeed. I appeal to the loyalists not to fall into this trap. Let the PIRA stand exposed for what they are, for all to see.

I will not be deflected from the search for a political settlement to make possible a lasting peace. We will redouble our efforts at the multi-party talks. Sinn Fein have excluded themselves more clearly than ever. PIRA's actions are totally incompatible with talk of peace and democratic negotiations.

The time for the talks to get on to the substance, and to make rapid progress, is now. I call on all concerned to make that possible. That is the best response to the bombers.

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