

Action Council Statement issued on Wednesday 11 May 1977

"We want to nail as an atrocious lie the statement made by the S of S, Mr Mason, that the Action Council called for an escalation of violence on Sunday last. As a matter of fact the Council, because of its adherence to Sunday Observance, had no meeting at all on Sunday, and no such statement could have been issued in such circumstances. The statement, purporting to come from the UFF, an organisation not in membership with the Action Council, was immediately condemned by us but like many other vital statements got no publicity, similar to many such statements axed through Northern Ireland censorship.

"These recent acts of violence and murder, which our political opponents are making a desperate attempt to fasten on to us, we totally and without qualification condemn. And we can assure all Ulster people that our aim is to destroy violence and that we give all our help and support towards that objective. The people of Ulster will know who to believe - the Northern Ireland Office, the Republican travellers, our political opponents or we who have stood fast and consistently for the Ulster cause.

"We would point out that the aim of these murders is to destroy our campaign to secure peace in Northern Ireland and the Action Council under no circumstances whatsoever could or would approve of such tactics which are self destructive. We believe they are mounted by the enemies of our Council and orchestrated by Mason's 'Dirty Tricks Department'. We call on the people of Ulster not to be influenced by the NIO and its Black Propaganda.

Signed

Ian Paisley and Ernest Baird