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cc:
Subject: Draft press release



North belfast 09.01.02.do

9 January 2002

THE FIRST MINISTER'S CALL FOR CALM IN NORTH BELFAST

The First Minister, Mark Larmour MP, MLA and Deputy First Minister Mark Durkan MLA, have expressed their concern over the recent shooting deaths in the Ardara Road area of North Belfast.

"We have a responsibility to the citizens of North Belfast to ensure that the situation in the area is brought under control as soon as possible. We call on everyone in the area to remain calm and to co-operate with the police and the security forces in their efforts to bring the situation under control."

"Local people, community organisations and church groups have worked hard to reach the 100th anniversary of the formation of the Council of North Belfast. That important work will continue. We are in the process of implementing measures that have been agreed and it is difficult for us to move forward against a backdrop of heightened tensions."

"Violence is wrong and does not solve anything. We call on everyone to be calm and to continue to work together to build on what has been achieved. The people of North Belfast have demonstrated a keen willingness to make this work. We remain committed to improve conditions in North Belfast for the benefit of both communities."

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Executive Information Service

Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister

9 January 2002

TRIMBLE AND DURKAN CALL FOR CALM IN NORTH BELFAST

First Minister Rt Hon David Trimble MP, MLA and Deputy First Minister Mark Durkan MLA have appealed for calm in north Belfast tonight following disturbances on the Ardoyne Road this afternoon. In a joint statement they said:

“ We were disheartened to see the renewed scenes of violence in north Belfast today after the progress which has been made in recent weeks. We call on everyone in the area to step back and to consider the impact that further violence will have on their communities.

“Local people, community representatives and church leaders have worked hard to resolve the deep rooted problems experienced by the communities in north Belfast. That important work will continue. We are in the process of implementing measures that had been agreed but it will be difficult for us to move forward against a backdrop of heightened tension.

“Violence is wrong and does not solve anything. We call on everyone to be calm and to continue to work together to build on what has been achieved. The people of north Belfast have demonstrated a keen willingness to make this work. We remain committed to improve conditions in north Belfast for the benefit of both communities.”

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