



G 91

Issued by the NORTHERN IRELAND INFORMATION SERVICE  
Stormont Castle, Belfast BT4 3ST. Telephone BELFAST 63011

# PRESS RELEASE

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER (MAJOR JAMES CHICHESTER-CLARK)  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12 1970

Once again the Royal Ulster Constabulary has been the target for a foul and vicious attack which has now claimed the lives of two men.

The outrage committed last night in Crossmaglen was a crime against the whole community in whose service Policemen do their duty. All decent people will want to express the profoundest sympathy with the relatives of these young men who have been the victims of as cowardly an act as any of those which for too long have stained the pages of our history.

There are some things I want to say about these events. First of all, let it be clearly remembered that it remains a capital offence to murder a person in the service of the Crown carrying out his lawful duties, or to commit murder in the course or furtherance of a seditious conspiracy or unlawful association.

Secondly, I believe it is now the duty of every person with a shred of political, religious, or other influence in any part of Ireland, not only to condemn outrages of this character, but to advise the community that those who commit them are criminal outlaws who should not be harboured, protected, or even tolerated for a moment, in any civilised society.

I do not know whether those who committed this particular crime were from Northern Ireland or the Republic. Within NI we will, of course, be pursuing the most rigorous search and investigation. In addition to this if in any case there is reason to suspect that criminals of this foul character may have come from or sought refuge in the south I would hope to see the authorities of the Irish Republic playing their full part in running the culprits to earth and making them amenable to the law.

12 August 1970