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Bureau on behalf of the Taoiseach.

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The whole nation will be heart-stricken by the savagery which has taken so many innocent lives and injured scores of people in Belfast this afternoon. The relatives and friends of the victims, as well as the injured, have the sympathy of the entire nation.

But it is not enough to mourn our loss. We must so act as to ensure a permanent end to these vile events.

Last Friday I said that time was not on the side of peace. Since then as many as 30 people have been killed in the North - so far this month about 70 deaths by violence have already been recorded.

I repeat therefore with the greatest sense of urgency the call I made last Friday for the political leadership in the North, in London and here to consult together to find means of eliminating violence, of creating a regional administration in the North from which no options are excluded and of moving in the direction of a permanent accommodation in the country as a whole. The two Governments involved and the political leaderships of the communities in the North have the capacity to do this. We must now show the will to begin to resolve the anguish of all the people we represent.

21 July, 1972.