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Report in the Irish Times of 30th June 1972
of a statement made by leaders of the UDA
denying charges of sectarianism and offering
cooperation to Catholics.

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The UDA in its statement said: "We want the people of the Bogside and the Creggan and Andersonstown to do more than just issue peace petitions." A spokesman added: "I want to assure you that if you are afraid, you can turn to us and we will welcome you with open arms, and protect you. If any Catholic family is being intimidated by the terrorists, contact the U.D.A. and we will guarantee you the hospitality of Protestant homes.

We will open our homes to you and deliver you from the fear and terror that has hung over you for so long.

We readily agree that things were not right in the past in Ulster. It would be wrong and bigoted to say that everything was right then. But things were improving, and both Protestants and Catholics were never so friendly as they were just before this trouble was begun by certain people four years ago.

There is no truth whatever in stories that the Protestant majority wishes any harm to the Catholic minority. We would welcome loyal Catholics to membership of the U.D.A. which is non-sectarian and only wishes for the welfare of all. Neither side can eliminate the other, nor wants to do so. We must work together and between us work out a new Northern Ireland which will be suitable and admirable for us both.

We appeal to the Catholic minority to do something positive at this critical moment and join us in eradicating terrorism and mutual fear and hostility. We will whole-heartedly co-operate with you and support you."