

NATIONAL ARCHIVES**IRELAND**

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FRIDAY

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NORTHERN IRELAND - MR HEATH'S BROADCAST

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF BROADCAST BY MR EDWARD HEATH ON BBC AND ITV TELEVISION TONIGHT FRIDAY.

I AM SPEAKING TO YOU TONIGHT AS PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM - ENGLAND, WALES, SCOTLAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND: AND IN PARTICULAR TO THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND, WHATEVER YOUR JOB, YOUR POLITICS OR YOUR RELIGION.

ALL OF US HAVE BEEN HORRIFIED BY THE VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND BY THE SUFFERING IT HAS CAUSED.

AS A GOVERNMENT WE HAVE BEEN DOING EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER TO BRING THAT VIOLENCE AND THAT SUFFERING TO AN END.

BECAUSE THE UNITED KINGDOM PARLIAMENT AND GOVERNMENT HAVE THE SAME DUTY TOWARDS THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND AS TO THE REST OF THE COUNTRY - TO PROTECT THEIR LIVES AND PROPERTY, AND TO GIVE THEM - ALL OF THEM - A FAIR SAY IN THE DECISIONS THAT SHAPE THEIR FUTURE.

NO SINGLE MEASURE CAN OVERCOME THE BITTERNESS OF THE PAST FEW YEARS - THE BITTERNESS INDEED OF FAR TOO MUCH OF NORTHERN IRELAND'S HISTORY. THE GOVERNMENT HAVE CONCLUDED AFTER LONG AND ANXIOUS THOUGHT THAT WE MUST MAKE POSSIBLE A COMPLETELY FRESH START.

PROPOSALS.

AND SO WE HAVE WORKED OUT A SET OF PROPOSALS TO PROVIDE THIS FRESH START - THE FRESH START WHICH IS NEEDED IF WE ARE TO BREAK OUT OF THE VICIOUS CIRCLE OF VIOLENCE AND YET MORE VIOLENCE. LAST WEDNESDAY I PUT THESE PROPOSALS TO MR. FAULKNER:

FIRST, THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE OVER RESPONSIBILITY FOR LAW AND ORDER IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

SECOND, THAT THERE SHOULD BE A GRADUAL REDUCTION IN INTERNMENT BEGINNING WITH THOSE INTERNEES WHO COULD BE RELEASED WITHOUT UNACCEPTABLE RISKS.

THIRD, THAT THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND SHOULD BE GIVEN A CHANCE AS SOON AS IT IS PRACTICABLE, AND AGAIN AT INTERVALS LATER, TO DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES IN A PLEBISCITE WHETHER OR NOT THEY WANT TO REMAIN IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THESE WERE THE PROPOSALS WHICH I PUT TO MR. PAULKNER ON WEDNESDAY. WE HAD HOPED THAT HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES MIGHT SEE THEIR WAY TO ACCEPTING THEM.

I WAS VERY SORRY WHEN HE TOLD ME THAT THEY COULD NOT CONTINUE AS THE GOVERNMENT OF NORTHERN IRELAND IF RESPONSIBILITY FOR LAW AND ORDER WERE TRANSFERRED TO WESTMINSTER. BUT WE BELIEVE THAT NOTHING LESS THAN THE PROPOSALS I HAVE DESCRIBED WILL ENABLE US TO BREAK OUT OF THE DEADLOCK OF THE LAST FEW MONTHS.

THE GOVERNMENT HERE IN LONDON IS THEREFORE OBLIGED TO TAKE OVER FOR THE TIME BEING FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONDUCT OF AFFAIRS IN NORTHERN IRELAND. //

ARMY

THE ARMY WILL STAY IN NORTHERN IRELAND AS LONG AS ANY FACTION SEEKS TO TERRORISE OR INTIMIDATE ORDINARY PEOPLE. //

THERE WILL BE NO LET-UP IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM.

ALL THE SECURITY FORCES WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE OUR FULL BACKING AND SUPPORT.

I WANT, BEFORE I END, TO SAY A SPECIAL WORD TO THOSE OF YOU WHO LIVE IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

YOU ARE THE ONES WHO HAVE HAD TO ENDURE THE YEARS OF VIOLENCE AND FEAR.

WE ADMIRE THE STEADINESS AND COURAGE WITH WHICH YOU HAVE DONE THIS.

NOW ONLY YOU CAN TAKE THE DECISION TO LIVE TOGETHER IN PEACE.

GUARANTEES

SUCCESSIVE BRITISH GOVERNMENTS OF BOTH POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE GIVEN TWO GUARANTEES TO THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND.

A GUARANTEE THAT, SO LONG AS A MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND EXPRESS THE WISH TO REMAIN PART OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, THAT WISH WILL BE HONOURED. //

AND A GUARANTEE THAT ALL SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY SHALL HAVE THEIR RIGHTFUL OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY A FULL PART IN THE RUNNING OF NORTHERN IRELAND. //

IN TAKING THE MEASURES I HAVE ANNOUNCED TODAY, THIS GOVERNMENT IS CONFIRMING AND REINFORCING THESE GUARANTEES.

THESE MEASURES ARE NOT IN THEMSELVES THE FINAL ANSWER.

OUR AIM IS TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND TO COME TOGETHER TO DISCUSS THEIR FUTURE, AND TO CREATE BY AGREEMENT THE CONDITIONS IN WHICH THE COMMUNITIES CAN LIVE IN PEACE.

HELP

THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT IS READY TO GIVE THE HELP THAT WILL BE NEEDED TO REPAIR THE DESTRUCTION OF RECENT MONTHS, TO ATTRACT NEW INDUSTRIES AND TO PROVIDE MORE JOBS.

SO TO ALL THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND I SAY THIS:

NOW IS YOUR CHANCE.

A CHANCE FOR FAIRNESS; A CHANCE FOR PROSPERITY; ABOVE ALL A CHANCE FOR PEACE.

A CHANCE AT LAST TO BRING THE BOMBINGS AND KILLINGS TO AN END.

MEMORIES OF THE PAST ARE LONG-LIVED. IN ALL CONSCIENCE YOU HAVE SUFFERED ENOUGH.

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT HAVE DONE TODAY IS INTENDED TO GIVE US THE OPPORTUNITY TO PUT THE PAST BEHIND US, AND CONCENTRATE ON THE FUTURE.

LET US TAKE THAT OPPORTUNITY TOGETHER.

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