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NEWS RELEASE

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Tuesday 8th October, 1974.

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STATEMENT AT THE U.U.U.C. PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE LEADER
OF THE UNIONIST PARTY THE RT. HON HARRY WEST.

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This election does not involve merely politicians. It involves a whole people. We United Unionists are not seeking to impose a policy upon Ulster. We are only trying to put into political terms what the great majority of the people of Ulster want.

The danger is that there are those who imagine that these great issues, which involve our whole future, the welfare and happiness of our children and of generations unborn, are only matters of words, something that can be swept aside by a sophisticated argument or made the subject of a deal, a trick or a broken promise. I believe that the policy demands which we are making are so fundamental and express so much the very heart and will of the Ulster people that, if we were to falter or compromise, the people of Ulster would quickly and very rightly push us aside as they have already set aside certain others who they felt had failed them. And they would replace us by somebody else who would speak what the Ulster people want spoken and give the lead that they demand.

There is nothing that Ulster people want more than peace and a lasting victory over lawlessness and violence. But there will not be peace on any basis that is not fundamentally acceptable to the majority of the Ulster people. We know the people of Ulster, and they will not be coerced into something that flouts their will and threatens their identity. If such a thing is imposed on them they will fight it and go on fighting it.

In trying to speak for Ulster and to mediate between Ulster and the outside world, we have tried to be temperate, compassionate and responsible. We are deeply conscious of our duty to represent the whole of Ulster and not just one section of its people, even though it may be the largest section. We want to do what is best for all. We want every human need and every point of view to be brought into consideration and, as far as possible, met. It is not possible to

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please everybody, but we are certainly dedicated to dealing justly and honourably with all.

Unity has therefore been the keynote of our election campaign. This does not mean uniformity or the making of a circle to shut anybody out. We all feel at this time that we need a spirit of mutual understanding and togetherness through the whole community. And it is in that spirit that we must stand up for Ulster.