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NORTHERN IRELAND

Bombing of English Cities

The Government at their meeting today condemned the recent bombings in English cities for which the Provisional I.R.A. are said to have claimed responsibility.

At any time of the year these cowardly crimes, with their danger to innocent men, women and children, would be reprehensible. At Christmas, they are particularly abhorrent. The Government wish to convey their sympathy to those whose life, property or business were threatened by the blasts.

They indicated that the security authorities here would give their full co-operation in preventing a recurrence and in bringing those responsible to justice.

At the same time, the Government reiterated their view that a solution to the Northern Ireland problem can only be achieved through the coming together of the people of Ireland, by consent, and under agreed structures. The British Government could contribute to this end by declaring their interest in the unity of Ireland.

19 December, 1978.