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The Taoiseach who has been holidaying in Portugal for the past ten days has issued the following statement:-

"I was deeply shocked when I heard of the assassination of Earl Mountbatten of Burma, his grandson, Nicholas Braebourne, and his employee Paul Maxwell and of the injuries to the Dowager Lady Braebourne, Lord and Lady Braebourne and their other son.

Lord Mountbatten, who was a man of great courage and who had a remarkable record of service to mankind, was highly respected by the people of Sligo and of Ireland and was always a very welcome visitor to our country.

I understand that the Provisional I.R.A. have admitted responsibility for this outrage. The Provisional I.R.A. are relentlessly and infiduously proving to be the real enemies of Ireland. They bring shame to all Irish people at home and abroad who wish to see Ireland progress politically and economically and in harmonious relationship with Britain.

All true Irish people utterly denounce and condemn the I.R.A. campaign of violence and destruction which has brought death and sorrow to many thousands of innocent people.

No effort will be spared to bring these criminals to justice."

27/8/79