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18 January 1980

SECRETARY OF STATE CONDEMNS TRAIN BOMBING

The following statement was issued by Rt Hon Humphrey Atkins MP, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, following the bombing of the Lisburn-Belfast train on Thursday evening.

"The brutal murder of innocent travellers on a train and the attempted murder of many others is a clear and positive indication that the terrorists in our midst have no concern for or interest in the victims of their vile activities.

In the past they have claimed that they are acting in pursuit of an ideal. No ideal can justify the killing and maiming of innocent people. I say now without qualification that these uncontrolled and inhuman criminals must be ostracised by society and rejected by those who know them. If this society is to make any progress there can be no room, no support and no shelter for those who kill and destroy. We are at present engaged in genuine efforts to restore peace and normality to our community. Those who committed these crimes are clearly bent on frustrating these efforts. They must not be allowed to succeed."

NOTE: This item was phoned to city offices last night.