

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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OUP statement given to Secretary of State
on 18 November 1981

"We wish to make it clear that the present increased security measures are acceptable only in the limited sense of the present emergency. They are in no way acceptable as any permanent solution to the past and continuing terrorist campaign. Such permanent proposals must not only be implemented but must be shown in practice to be effective.

"We wish to emphasise that the present British policy (as shown in the Anglo-Irish talks) of Irish unity being the only political solution is totally rejected as being the cause of the lack of political will that has resulted in the security failures up to the present time.

"Not only must the British Government provide acceptable and effective security measures but they must be accompanied by an effective political action to restore devolved government with substantial power upon the principles of democratic government as practised elsewhere in the United Kingdom.

"We believe that the unionist population of Northern Ireland are fully justified and entitled to demonstrate their frustration and anxiety at the British Government's failure to protect the most basic of democratic rights, that of life. But such demonstrations must be conducted with a dignity and resolution worthy of the dead on whose behalf they protest.

"We have agreed to see Mr. Prior primarily to spell out the above terms as being the only ones acceptable and only in terms of security when such measures have proved effective in practice.

"We are determined to put into effect the administrative measures for implementing alternative security plans pending settlement of new permanent and effective security measures by Westminster."