

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

IRELAND



Reference Code:	2013/27/1550
Creation Date(s):	7 December 1983
Extent and medium:	1 page
Creator(s):	Department of Foreign Affairs
Access Conditions:	Open
Copyright:	National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.



N1 22/3

Northern Ireland Information Service

Stormont Castle, Belfast BT4 3ST. Telephone (0232) 63011. Telex 74163: 74250: 74272

Whitehall, London SW1A 2AZ. Telephone 01-273-5441. Telex 1918889

7 December 1983

SHOOTING OF MR EDGAR GRAHAM

The following statement was made today in the House of Commons by
The Hon Adam Butler MP, Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office:

With permission, Mr Speaker, I should like to make a statement on the
murder earlier today of Mr Edgar Graham. I do so on behalf of my
Rt hon Friend who is in Northern Ireland.

Mr Edgar Graham, a member of the Northern Ireland Assembly, was
murdered at 10.50 this morning outside Queen's University Belfast,
where he lectured. He was approached whilst talking to a colleague
on the pavement by 2 youths on foot who fired a number of shots and
then fled. The Provisional IRA have claimed responsibility for the
murder. A full police enquiry was mounted immediately.

I know that the whole House will join me in extending sympathy to
Mr Graham's family as also to those Rt hon and hon Members who were
his colleagues. It will also want to join me in expressing total
condemnation of this outrage. Edgar Graham was the kind of young
man who is needed in Northern Ireland politics. His intellectual
gifts would have enabled him to make a good career in any number of
fields. He chose to devote them to the process of democracy.

At 28 he was already a senior figure in his party including being
secretary of the Ulster Unionist Council. I can speak with personal
knowledge of his political skills and penetrating mind as the
Chairman of the Finance and Personnel Committee of the Northern
Ireland Assembly. I therefore express my own feelings in addition
to those of the Government in lamenting his untimely death.