

## An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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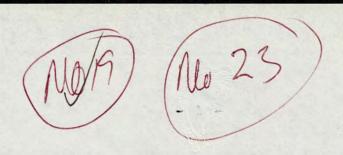
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## GOVERNMENT STATEMENT.

The Government share the disappointment of the leader of the SDLP and his party that their courageous effort to extend the political and peace process has not succeeded.

The Government wish to reiterate their view that the violence and suffering which has afflicted Northern Ireland for far too long has no contribution to make to the kind of society which all people of good-will wish to see established.

The SDLP leader in his statement recalls that the Irish

Government have consistently stated that they were willing to

undertake or support any dialogue or discussion designed to secure real political progress. For this purpose the Government and the SDLP are arranging an early meeting, at which the lines along which such political progress might best be pursued and all aspects of the current Northern situation, will be reviewed in depth.

5th September, 1988.