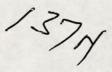


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The Government wish again to indicate their deep and anxious concern about the deteriorating situation in the North of Ireland and the grave danger that it represents for all the people of the community there. The frightening escalation in the level of violence over recent weeks undermines the very maintenance of the rule of law and can only bring further division and tragedy to the people of the North.

The Government wish to reiterate their conviction that violence is totally counter-productive and their willingness to undertake or support any dialogue or discussion designed to secure peace through political progress. They gladly offer to facilitate, or participate in, any such initiative.

The Government have sought an early meeting of the Anglo-Irish Conference to discuss all the implications of recent happenings.

31 8 88.