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**STATEMENT FROM RUC HEADQUARTERS -
FATAL SHOOTING AT FALLS ROAD**

At approximately 1.15 pm today a shooting occurred at the Sinn Fein Offices at Falls Road Belfast. Three persons were fatally injured and a fourth person is seriously ill in hospital.

Just before 3.0 pm today police found the body of a man inside his car at Shore Road, Ballinderry. There was a shotgun at the scene. The dead man was a 24 year old police constable.

At this stage, the sequence of events as established by the police is as follows:

Yesterday the police constable in question attended the funeral of a close colleague in Comber. At approximately 11.0 pm last night a report was received of shots having been fired in Comber Cemetery. Police investigating this report detained an off-duty constable who had drink taken and who admitted discharging the shots in the graveyard. In view of the circumstances, a senior officer attended to investigate the

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incident. The constable was medically and scientifically examined and police took possession of his service Ruger Revolver. He was later released into the care of a colleague.

Shortly after 9.0 am this morning the constable was informed that he was to attend for examination by the Force Medical Officer at 12.30 pm and he agreed to attend. This appointment was not kept.

At approximately 1.45 pm a call was received at Newtownabbey Police Station purporting to come from the Constable; he stated that he had shot 4 people and that he was telephoning from near Lough Neagh in the Moira area. Fifteen minutes later a second call was received that he was at Ballinderry. Police went to the scene and found the dead constable.

A full investigation of this tragic sequence of events is being conducted by a senior detective.

4 February 1992