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Recd 28/10

27 OCTOBER 1993

AS O'Keefe  
Mr. Amoyhve  
To see [unclear]  
on 28/10

TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON  
FOR G CORR FROM M COLLINS

PST  
PSS

*[Signature]*  
for info

STATEMENT BY SPEAKER FOLEY

Attached, for information, is the text of remarks made this evening in the House by Speaker Foley on recent developments in Northern Ireland.

The Speaker condemns both the IRA and UFF killings in the strongest terms. Referring to the recent IRA violence, Foley says that "this cannot be squared with a commitment to peace and reconciliation". He says that the only solution lies in "non-violent dialogue and a shared devotion to a fair and peaceful resolution that can bring together those whom the killings drive asunder". In referring to Friday's meeting between the Taoiseach and British Prime Minister Major, he says Northern Ireland will dominate their discussions - "the world awaits their joint demonstration of resolve to rejuvenate the quest for peace, reconciliation and justice in that troubled land".

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October 27, 1993

Mr. Foley. Mr. Speaker, once again the men of violence have spoken through the mouths of guns, and once again their gruesome sabotage has blocked the road to peace in Northern Ireland.

Yesterday, paramilitaries of the Ulster Freedom Fighters killed 2 and injured 5 more Catholic workmen in Belfast. Monday night a 72 year old Catholic pensioner was shot dead. On Saturday night another Catholic was killed.

The evidence is that these murder victims were chosen at random, sacrificed in retaliation for the bombing murders earlier Saturday of 10 innocent shoppers - including 2 children - in a Protestant neighborhood of Belfast. The Irish Republican Army has claimed credit for that massacre, which killed one of its paramilitaries and injured 57 other unsuspecting bystanders. There was no warning, because the IRA sought to kill loyalist paramilitaries of the Ulster Defense Association it thought would meet above the fish shop where their bomb exploded prematurely.

Such is the tit-for-tat cycle of death in Northern Ireland from which the governments of Ireland and the United Kingdom have been struggling to pull the people of the North. The process for that effort was a series of talks that involved all the political parties in the North which have renounced the use of violence. Both governments seek a third round of such talks, but little progress has

been made in the last year.

Some hope had been raised in recent weeks by private talks between the leaders of the Social Democratic Labour Party, which renounces violence, and the Sinn Fein, the political arm of the IRA, which does not. The SDLP leader, John Hume, had issued a joint statement with Gerry Adams, leader of Sinn Fein, which offered the prospect of a cessation of violence by the IRA and political talks involving Sinn Fein as well as the constitutional political parties - those which commit themselves to constitutional processes and renounce violence.

All who know John Hume, himself the target of numerous paramilitary attacks, applaud his dedication to a lasting peace for all of the people of the North through dialogue and economic empowerment, as exemplified by the multilateral efforts of the International Fund for Ireland. No details of the initiative he has authored have yet been made public, but one must question whether the IRA, which continued its campaign of bombings and killings in the aftermath of the joint statement, was ever serious about ending that violence. Certainly this most recent wanton attack cannot be squared with a commitment to peace or reconciliation. What is clear is that both the IRA and their counterpart Loyalist paramilitaries such as the UFF are dedicated solely to keeping their body counts up to date and in balance. This cruel preoccupation cannot but lead to future suffering, to grieving widows and parents, and, just as surely, to a diminution of the primacy of the human spirit over savagery.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot summon words to adequately condemn the brutal, callous character of the carnage of the past few days in Northern Ireland. The civilized world stands in awe and abhorrence at what we see there. What the Irish people, indeed all of us, must endeavor to take away from this view of the Inferno, however, is not the terror that its perpetrators seek to instill, but the determination to see in our utter horror that its only solution lies in nonviolent dialogue and a shared devotion to a fair and peaceful solution that can bring together those whom the killing drives asunder.

A beginning to such an end would be a resumption of political talks among the constitutional parties and the two governments. The Sinn Fein could be part of those talks, but its entry can only be bought by a genuine and convincing repudiation of paramilitary violence. There is no excuse, however, for any official or party who fails to see in these bloody reprisals the imperative for a renewed and genuine peace process. When Prime Ministers Albert Reynolds and John Major meet this Friday, Northern Ireland will dominate their discussions. The world awaits their joint demonstration of resolve to rejuvenate the quest for peace, reconciliation and justice in that troubled land.