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Statement by the Taoiseach, Mr. Albert Reynolds, T.D.,
on the Warrington Bombing, Dáil Éireann, 23 March, 1993 at 3.45 pm.

I know that the House will join me in expressing grief and anger at the shocking act of IRA violence which took place in Warrington last Saturday. A peaceful shopping precinct thronged with parents and their children was turned into a scene of utter carnage by an act of premeditated evil.

I extend the deep condolences and sympathy of the Government and people of Ireland to the parents of young Jonathan Ball, a three year old child, who lost his life in the bomb attack and to all of those who were injured in this act of savagery. The Government were prepared to be represented at the funeral, but the wishes of the family for privacy must be paramount. I extend our support and best wishes to those who now lie grievously injured in hospital, fighting for their lives, and to their families.

This bombing, whose victims were the young and defenceless, is the latest outrage in the long series of cruel and cowardly acts perpetrated by the Provisional IRA in Northern Ireland and further afield. Their expressions of regret at Saturday's bombing are rightly viewed with contempt and incredulity by all reasonable people in Ireland, North and South, and in Britain.

The IRA's campaign of violence has served not only to increase human suffering, but it has deepened divisions within Ireland. It is long past time for it to be brought to an end. The events at Warrington and other attacks in Britain show a cynical disregard

for their effects on relations with the Irish community there. I know that the Irish community in Warrington and throughout Britain have made it clear that they share the revulsion of their British neighbours at this horrible act. I am confident that responsible British opinion is well aware of that fact.

The bomb attack in Warrington and its perpetrators stand condemned by the Government, and by the people of Ireland. I am sure that the House will join me in expressing the sense of outrage we feel at this callous and brutal act, and in conveying our deepest sympathy to the families most closely affected and to all the people of Warrington. It must strengthen our determination to pursue the early resumption of political dialogue and the establishment of peace.