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**Statement by the Taoiseach Mr Albert Reynolds TD,
Dáil Eireann, Thursday, 17 November 1994, at 10.30 a.m.**

I wish to announce to the Dáil that I intend, following this statement, to go to Aras an Uachtaráin to tender my resignation as Taoiseach and that of my Ministers to the President. I will not be seeking a dissolution of the Dáil. On the basis provided for in the Constitution, we will continue to carry on our duties, until a new Administration is formed. I have taken this decision for the good of the country, in the interests of stability, and in particular to ensure the continuation of the peace process. I am doing this in the full knowledge of the full support of my Ministerial colleagues.

In the circumstances that have led to this decision, I simply wish to state that it was never my intention to mislead the Dáil or withhold any material information from it. I sought a deeper investigation of the circumstances surrounding the handling of the Brendan Smyth extradition case from the new Attorney General, and have been prepared to draw the appropriate conclusions without flinching. The same goes for all my Ministerial colleagues. The Minister for Justice, Mrs. Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, T.D., offered me her resignation yesterday afternoon, which I refused.

It has been my privilege to have led a very successful and pioneering Partnership Government over the last 2 years. We have had excellent results on the economy shown in increasing employment, and we have produced many enlightened social reforms. I would also like to think it has been a compassionate Government.

The most important achievement has been the breakthrough to peace on Northern Ireland with the two ceasefires. It is a source of immense relief to us all that the terrible cycle of deaths has been brought to an end. I would like to thank all those brave people North and South, who have helped both recently and over the years to bring this about.

Now that I am no longer in a position to make a further contribution as Taoiseach, I would appeal to all those who will be in a position to influence the course of events to hold fast to and to build on what has been achieved, for the sake of everybody living and for future generations on this island.

I would like to pay tribute to all my colleagues, both Fianna Fail and Labour, for working together with me in Government on behalf of the country.