

FROM: PS/SECRETARY OF STATE
15 October 1993

ASST SEC 383/10
27 OCT 1993
CENT MBW SEC

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DESK IMMEDIATE

- cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B
PS/Mr Atkins (DED,DOE&L) - B
PS/Sir John Wheeler (B&L) - B
PS/Michael Ancram (DENI,B&L)- B
PS/Lord Arran (DANI,DHSS&L) - B
PS/PUS (B&L) - B
PS/Mr Fell - B
Mr Legge - B
Mr Thomas - B
Mr Bell - B
Mr Steele - B
Mr Williams - B
Mr Watkins - B
Mr Wood (B&L) - B
Mr Cooke - B
Mr Archer, RID - B
Mrs Collins - B
Mr Leach - B
Mr Maccabe - B
Mr West - B
Mr Caine - B
HMA Dublin - B

ORDER/ 1041/10
SEC
25OCT1993

Wm M. Murphy
Wm M. Caine

Mr Brearley - B

SHANKILL ROAD EXPLOSION: DRAFT PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENT

This is the Secretary of State's final version of this afternoon's statement.

Signed

JONATHAN STEPHENS
Private Secretary

BB/SOFS/15902

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Madam Speaker,

With permission, I will make a statement about Saturday's bombing by
the Provisional IRA.

At around half-past nine on Saturday morning a house in North
Belfast was taken over by 2 masked men, who said they were members
of the Provisional IRA. The occupant of the house was forcibly
detained in an upstairs room for some 3½ hours. His car was stolen.

Shortly after 1 pm, a similar car was seen parked on the Shankill
Road, close to Berlin Street. Two men got out of the vehicle. One
was carrying a box. Both walked from the car into Mr John
Frizzell's fish shop at 275 Shankill Road. At eleven minutes past
one a bomb exploded inside the shop, which is on the ground floor of
a three-storey building. This is a popular shopping area which at
the time was especially crowded with people doing their weekend
shopping. The building was completely demolished.

The police, fire and ambulance services were quickly there, and a
major rescue operation ensued, with local people providing
tremendous help. The injured were taken to a number of Belfast
hospitals whose medical and other staff responded immediately. The
work of all concerned, both at the scene and in the hospitals, was
beyond praise. I am most grateful for the tributes so widely paid
to them, to which I gratefully add my own today.

Ten people died: two children; four women and four men. They
included a 7 year old girl and her parents; the owner of the shop,
Mr Frizzell, and his daughter; a wife and her husband; a 38 year
old woman and a 13-year old girl on an errand for her mother.

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Fifty-seven people were injured, ranging from young children to elderly shoppers.

In a statement on Saturday afternoon the Provisional IRA claimed responsibility for this atrocious act. They subsequently said that some of those who carried it out were unaccounted for.

The Chief Constable of the RUC took immediate steps to safeguard security. In particular, more police and military manpower has been deployed in Belfast and other areas. Two people have been arrested in connection with the explosion.

The whole House will condemn with revulsion Saturday's hideous attack. There can be no possible doubt about this: these people intended in any event to commit mass murder and to commit it in a busy street full of Saturday shoppers and their children. Once again the Provisional IRA has taken away the lives of children, along with those of ordinary men and women who in two instances were their parents.

The natural reaction of humane men and women to crimes of this enormity is one of rage. The restraint and dignity shown by the people of the Shankill is therefore all the more to be admired. Horrible though the provocation is, I urge the whole community in Belfast and throughout Northern Ireland to continue to show equal self-control in the days ahead. I share the Chief Constable's belief that it will do so.

Reason tells us that revenge merely multiplies the murder and injustice it reacts against; and reason, not rage, must be our guide. Reason tells us that all violence, from whatever quarter, and certainly including recent loyalist attacks - which have already

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resulted in another murder since Saturday - must be consistently and universally condemned. But reason also tells us that in this democracy those who commit these terrible crimes, those who commission them and those who justify them, must not be bargained with.

To the innocent victims of this attack, and those near and dear to them, our heartfelt sympathies go out. I assure them, and the people of Northern Ireland, that the RUC, with the Government's full support, will spare no effort to track down the remainder of these criminals; and to protect the public from others like them. The RUC need, and they deserve, the help of everyone.

To those who did this terrible thing, and to those who justify the use of violence, the message and the only message, is this. In this democracy, no political purpose, whatever it may be, will be advanced by a single inch through the use or the threat of violence. No campaign, however horrible or protracted, will shift us from that determination.

Finally, this atrocity surely reinforces the challenge to all the participants, including the two Governments, who are currently involved as constitutional politicians in the urgent search for a solution to Northern Ireland's political problems. In this democracy it is only through dialogue - dialogue between those who unequivocally reject the use or threat of violence - that the foundation will in the end be found for a fair and hence a lasting peace.

JONATHAN STEPHENS
Private Secretary