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**Ulster Unionist Party**  
for all of us

11th March 2009

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**Sir Reg Empey**  
Department of  
Employment and  
Learning



**Michael McGimpsey**  
Department of  
Health, Social  
Services and Public  
Safety

**FOOD LABELLED  
'BRITISH'  
SHOULD BE  
BORN & BRED  
IN BRITAIN**

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Sir Reg Empey, Ulster Unionist Party Leader has outlined his belief that there should be a strong and collective resolve in Northern Ireland to ensure that we will not be dragged back into the past, after the murder of a Police Officer in Craigavon last night:

"Our primary thoughts today are with the family, friends and colleagues of the murdered Police Officer.

And our gratitude goes to all of the men and women of our policing and security forces who, once again, find themselves on the frontline.

Since the mid-1990s the political representatives of unionism, loyalism, nationalism and republicanism have worked together to create a new way forward for Northern Ireland.

Our aim was to deliver political stability and hand on a peaceful environment to the coming generations.

And we did. We built political institutions in which the governance of Northern Ireland is shared by both traditions. We built a political platform upon which progress can be sustained and new opportunities developed. We opened a door to a new future.

Of course there are still difficulties---but nothing that can't be overcome with dialogue, negotiation, compromise and goodwill.

What these so-called dissidents fail to appreciate is that circumstances have changed immeasurably here and changed for the better.

Indeed, our parties have created a settlement which has been overwhelmingly endorsed by republicans on both sides of the Border.

These criminal elements have thrown down the gauntlet to all of us. They have declared war upon all of the people here.

But let me tell them this: there is a new, strong, determined and collective resolve in Northern Ireland.

A resolve not to be dragged back to a darker, bloodier world.

A resolve from both traditions that they won't be manipulated by the self-serving agenda of these criminal thugs.

A resolve that our democratic institutions will not be uprooted.

A resolve that the next generation will not be lumbered with the same problems.

A resolve that the people and parties of Northern Ireland will stand together and, together, face down the forces of terror and anti-democracy".

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Site last updated 10th March 2009

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