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NORTHERN IRELAND
Information Service

Security release

21 November 1989

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE, RT HON PETER BROOKE, MP

I have met this morning with security commanders and advisers to be briefed on the security situation, including the follow-up to recent outrages.

We shall continue to pursue those who commit acts of terrorism with the full rigour of the law.

Those responsible for the security forces have the approval of Government to take whatever lawful action they consider to be necessary to protect the community from this threat.

The Government itself has not ruled out and will not rule out any security measure consistent with the rule of law which would bring nearer an end to the violence.

Terrorists cannot win, and will not be permitted to win. The Provisional IRA seeks a British withdrawal from Northern Ireland under duress and against the wishes of the majority of those who live there. There are no circumstances in which this will be contemplated. The constitutional guarantees and undertakings embodied in statute and also in the Anglo-Irish Agreement will not be set aside. Military support for the civil power will be committed for as long as it is required. These continued killings are, therefore, not only obscene but futile. They are based on a gross misjudgment of the mood of the British Government and people.