



An Chartlann Náisiúnta **National Archives**

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NORTHERN IRELAND Information Service

22 September 1989

Text of statement made by Minister of State, Rt Hon John Cope, MP following today's explosion at Deal, Kent

"I want first to express my sympathy to the friends, relatives and the comrades of those who have been killed and injured and hope that those who are injured will quickly recover their full health and strength.

"It is a savage and murderous attack on the security forces which I think everyone of goodwill in all communities will utterly condemn. The timing of this particular attack, coming soon after the verbal criticisms of the security forces in the last few days, emphasises that they are open to physical attack of a very strong nature. It emphasises the need for the security forces that we all have here in Northern Ireland and in Great Britain and overseas, and it puts in perspective the attacks on the security forces.

"Of course, there are allegations against a few members of the security forces which we are investigating and will do so ruthlessly. But let us be clear: we need the determination, we need the steadiness of the security forces - here in Northern Ireland and in Great Britain and overseas.

"What has happened will renew our determination to fight terrorism from wherever it comes. The men of violence have today caused us pain and grief but they will not win and they will not dictate to us."

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Statement

The Taoiseach strongly condemns the bomb attack on Deal Barracks in Kent which has caused severe and tragic loss of life and many injuries.

He has sent a message to the British Prime Minister, Mrs. Thatcher, expressing his horror at this outrage and extending deepest sympathy. He has also offered his condolences on behalf of the Government to the bereaved families.

22nd September, 1989.

Message

I am appalled at the loss of life and injuries suffered at Deal Barracks as a result of a bomb attack. Please accept my deepest sympathy on my own behalf and on behalf of my colleagues in Government. Such outrages only renew our determination to bring to an end all such barbarous acts of terrorism in our democracies.

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per Daniel ~~La Calle~~
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