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FROM R.T.E. LONDON

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Attention: David Donaghy

CARRONreax

Credit Mike Burns

In London, the Northern Ireland Office said today's ruling was "most worrying".

A brief statement issued shortly after the Supreme Court decision said: "We are very disturbed that Owen Carron has been allowed to make use of the political offence exception. Coming so soon on the heels of a similar ruling in the case of Finnucane, this is a most worrying decision. We cannot accept that acts of terrorism, which put peoples' lives, be they members of the security forces or the general public, at risk, are in any way political. Those who perpetrate these callous and evil deeds should be brought to justice. We shall be studying the judgments closely, as soon as we receive them, in order to see how situations such as this can be avoided in future".

A Downing Street spokesman said the Prime Minister's office had "nothing to add" to the Northern Ireland Office statement.

cc. P.S.M.

P.S.S.

M. J. & M. J.

Mr. Nally
Mr. Williams

Mr. Brennan
M. J.