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Reference Code:	2021/45/116
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ON BEHALF OF

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Statement by Ray Burke, T.D., Minister for Justice on the placing of incendiary devices in business premises over the weekend 27/28 July 1991.

Mr Ray Burke T.D., the Minister for Justice, today complimented the Garda authorities and the business community on their effective and efficient response to the incidents over the weekend where incendiary devices were placed in business premises in a number of locations.

The Minister expressed sympathy with those traders who had been the victims of these incendiary attacks. The Minister asked that shop owners and traders should continue to be on the alert and to follow Garda advice regarding such attacks.

The Minister emphasised the continuing nature of the threat posed by these devices particularly in the light of the claim that fifty such devices have been planted. Shop owners and employees will need to be especially vigilant in the coming days. There is a particular need to thoroughly search all premises which might be potential targets.

The co-operation of the public and the business community is crucial in preventing such incidents and coping with them when they occur. People should not hesitate to contact the Garda authorities if they notice anything suspicious. It does not matter how small the incident may be, it could be crucial for the Gardai to know about it.

The Minister would like to assure the business community and the population at large of the full commitment of the Garda authorities to counteracting such attacks and a number of measures which were already in place are being intensified. The Gardai are also receiving the full cooperation of the R.U.C.. The Minister for Justice states categorically that the necessary manpower and equipment to deal with incidents on the border or arising from the Northern situation are in place .

Ends.

29 July 1991