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Prime Minister

Ref. A086/1276

MR POWELL

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--- You may like to see the attached copy of the statement made by Mr Barry, the Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs, after the murder of Inspector James Hazlitt of the RUC on 23 April.

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ROBERT ARMSTRONG

28 April 1986

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Statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Peter Barry, T.D.

I have learned with horror of the murder of a member of the RUC, Inspector James Hazlitt, in Newcastle, Co. Down, last night.

I utterly condemn this brutal and wanton act. The men who have perpetrated this atrocity are evil men. I cannot say this often enough. Time and time again, the Provisional IRA and other subversive organisations have demonstrated their cynical disregard for human life and their rejection of the basic values upon which democratic society is founded.

The slaying of a member of the RUC is particularly reprehensible at the present time. The authors of this crime have the audacity to assert that they acted in self-defence. This reveals the depravity of these gunmen. Far from defending either themselves or anyone else, their act was a perverse attempt to provoke violence and repression against innocent Nationalists at a time of exceptional tension in the community.

Nobody can be unaware of the pressures under which the RUC is operating at present. The bravery and dedication demonstrated by these men in protecting Nationalists as well as Unionists deserve our recognition.

The Provisional IRA is preventing the reconciliation of Nationalists and Unionists for their own political profit. Their evil campaign will not succeed. On behalf of the Irish Government, I wish to state that we will do everything in our power to apprehend those responsible for the murder of Inspector Hazlitt. I am sure that the cooperation of all decent people in both parts of the island will be forthcoming in the search for the culprits.

I wish also to convey my deep personal sympathy, and the sympathy of the Irish Government, to the family of the dead man, to the Chief Constable and to all the members of the RUC.

23 April 1986

