

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland telephoned the Prime Minister at 9.50 p.m. on Monday 27 August.

The Prime Minister said that the news was terrible but little could be discussed over the 'phone. Mr. Atkins said that he would be in the Province early tomorrow morning. The Prime Minister asked him to pass on her most sincere condolences. She asked what facts had so far been established. Mr. Atkins said that the incident had taken place at Carlingford Lough, where 300 yards of water divides the North from the South. There had been two big devices, probably detonated from the other side. The first had killed six men and wounded two. A helicopter which had come to assist met the second blast and seventeen men were killed. These included the Commanding Officer of The Queen's Own Highlanders, Colonel Blair.

Mr. Atkins said that he would travel tomorrow morning and if convenient for the Prime Minister he would come back to report to her in the afternoon. The Prime Minister asked that he should do so. She was concerned that, despite the appalling tragedy of today, this might not yet be the end.

27 August 1979