



Mr. Butler for your file

But 23/12

Pl. file

*Prime Minister's statement issued to the press
on leaving Northern Ireland.*

Christmas is a time of peace and reconciliation. This peace was cruelly shattered last Saturday in London, as it has been many times in Northern Ireland. But the courage and dedication of all those who work for peace and who guard our freedom shine through like a beacon of hope.

2. I began my visit this morning in the beautiful Ards Peninsular and met the many shoppers in the streets of Newtownards. They gave us a wonderful welcome. I can assure them, and families throughout the Province, that the Government is fully committed and determined to make Northern Ireland a better and more peaceful place for everyone. In the face of considerable difficulties we have managed to allocate over £4,000 million to the Province next year, and I know the money will be used to good effect.

3. But none of us can forget the inhuman, contemptuous and contemptible work of the terrorists. It will not achieve their objective. We do not surrender to bullets or bombs.

4. I have visited some units of the Army and police and UDR, who are charged with defending our freedoms under the law. I saw them in barracks at Armagh, and at duty stations as far apart as Newtownards and Aughnacloy. I also met the wives of many RUC officers who I know share the anxiety and responsibilities of their husbands. We thank them for their bravery and assure them of our total support in their difficult and often dangerous work.

5. May I say that I warmly welcome and accept the invitation of the



Taoiseach to step up even further our cooperation in the battle against terrorism.

6. We are thankful too for the valiant efforts of those in the churches and the community who are forthright in condemning violence and who strive to build harmonious relations between all our citizens.

7. Jim Prior and I will do everything in our power to achieve peaceful political progress in the year ahead. To all who yearn for peace with freedom I wish you a happy Christmas and a good New Year.

E.R.

Christmas is a time of peace and reconciliation. This peace was cruelly shattered last Saturday in London, as it has been many times in Northern Ireland. But the courage and dedication of all those who work in peace and who guard our freedom shine through like a beacon of hope.

2. I began my visit this morning in the beautiful Ards Peninsular and met the many shoppers in the streets of Newtownards. They gave us a wonderful welcome. I can assure

them, and families throughout the Province, that the Government is

~~determined to continue to show its concern for the~~
~~committed to improving the daily life of our citizens in~~

~~life and welfare of the people of N.I. fully committed and determined to make~~
~~N.I. a better and more peaceful place for everyone.~~ In the face of considerable difficulties we

have managed to allocate over £4,000,000,000 to the Province

next year, ~~something over £2,500 for every man, woman and a~~
~~child living here.~~ ^{million} ~~and I know the money will be used to good effect.~~

But none of us can forget the inhuman, contemptuous - and contemptible - work of the terrorists. It will not achieve their objectives. We do not give in to bullets or bombs. // I have visited some units of the Army and police and UDR, who are charged with defending our freedoms under the law. I saw them in barracks at Armagh, and at duty stations as far apart as Newtownards and Aghnacloy. I also met the wives of many RUC officers who I know share the anxiety and responsibilities of their husbands. We thank them for their bravery and assure them of our total support in their difficult and often dangerous work // In this connection, I warmly welcome the invitation of the Taoiseach to step up even further our cooperation in the battle against terrorism.

Malcolm...

3. We are thankful too for the valiant efforts of those in the churches and the community who are forthright in condemning violence and who strive to build harmonious relations between all our citizens.

4. To all who yearn for peace with freedom I wish you a happy and joyful Christmas. And a happier and more joyful New Year.

JP I and Jim Prior will do everything in our power to pursue peaceful political progress in the year ahead,

~~TOP SECRET~~
~~RESTRICTED~~

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1. Christmas is a time of peace and reconciliation. This peace was cruelly shattered last Saturday in London, ^{as it has} ~~and is~~ absent from the lives of many in Northern Ireland. But whenever I visit Northern Ireland, as I have done today, I am reminded of all those who are working to secure peace for the ordinary people of this country.

been on my mind in the past
dedication
of all those who work for peace and who guard our freedom like a beacon of hope

2. I began my visit this morning in the beautiful Ards peninsular and met the many shoppers in the streets of Newtownards. ~~I was~~ ^{They} heartened by the warmth of their welcome. I can assure them, and families throughout the Province, that the British Government is committed to improving the daily life of Northern Ireland.

gave us a wonderful
on interest

3. In the face of considerable difficulties we have managed to allocate over 4 billion pounds of public funds to the Province next year, something over £2500 for every man, woman and child living here. And we have agreed a special package of economic measures to help to stimulate new jobs.

thousand and million

Reminds
me

4. But none of us can forget the heartless and destructive work of the terrorists. Here, and this month in Britain and the Republic, the terrorists have shown their contempt for those political, religious and personal freedoms on which civilised life depends.

(A)

5. I have visited some units of the Army and Police and UDR, who are charged with the onerous task of defending our freedoms under the law. I saw them in barracks at Armagh, and at duty stations as far apart as Newtownards and Anghnacloy. I also met the wives of many RUC officers who I know share the anxiety and responsibilities of their husbands. I have assured them all of my support.

Thank them for their own bravery and ensure them of our full support in their difficult and often dangerous work.

6. I welcome the courageous work of the security forces, and welcome too the equally courageous efforts of those in the churches and the community who are forthright in condemning violence and in striving, with us, to create reconciliation.

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We are thankful too for the valiant work.

to build harmonious relations

Reminds's last sentence between 4 & 5 on interest.

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~Restricted~~

(B)

7. The work of the Security Forces and other agencies can never be enough in itself. It needs to be underpinned by political stability. I hope that those who cherish the democratic process will use the opportunities we have provided, in the Assembly to work out together arrangements which can win the support of all sections of the community.

8. To you all, I wish a happy and peaceful Christmas.

In this connection I should
say how much I warmly
welcome the
invitation of the Taoiseach to step
even further our cooperation in the
battle against terrorism.

Invitation we welcome
Step up even further
Cooperation in the
battle against
terrorism