

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

Prime Minister.

(2)

AD 4/11.



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2AZ

A J Coles Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
London SW1

4th November 1983

Dear John,

NORTHERN IRELAND: ULSTER POLYTECHNIC BOMB EXPLOSION

I am writing to report on today's bomb explosion at the Ulster Polytechnic, Jordanstown, County Antrim.

The explosion occurred shortly before 12 noon on 4 November in a partition between two second floor class-rooms. An HNC course, attended by a number of police officers of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, was in progress in one of the class-rooms at the time. The explosion blew out the partition wall onto the adjoining class-room, trapping a number of civilian students.

The casualty figures as at 5.30pm on 4 November were 2 policemen dead (Inspector Martin and Sergeant Fife), 13 policemen injured, of whom two are in a particularly critical condition and others are seriously injured, and 17 civilians injured, but apparently none seriously. No-one has yet claimed responsibility.

Mr Adam Butler, the Minister of State, was in Northern Ireland at the time. He visited the Polytechnic and met senior academic staff and RUC officers at the scene. He also spoke to the press condemning the out-rage and expressing sympathy to the injured and the families of the bereaved.

Dr FitzGerald may refer to this out-rage when he sees the Prime Minister, and you may therefore wish to reflect this report in briefing. We shall telephone you with anymore up-to-date information on Monday morning.

I am copying this letter to Peter Ricketts (FCO) and to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever,

John Lyon

J M LYON

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