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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. 62/89



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

27 March 1989

Dear Prime Minister,

It was most thoughtful of you to send me a message about the murder of two senior policemen in Northern Ireland by IRA terrorists. It was, sadly, only the latest in a succession of cold-blooded acts of murder which they have carried out.

I know that your kind expression of condolence will be of comfort to the families of the two officers and I shall ensure that it is passed on. With every good wish

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

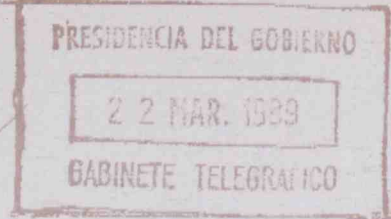
His Excellency Senor Don Felipe Gonzalez Marquez

me / pm



FAXT 421

GABINETE DE LA PRESIDENCIA DEL GOBIERNO
DEPARTAMENTO INTERNACIONAL



1930

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No 59 B / 89

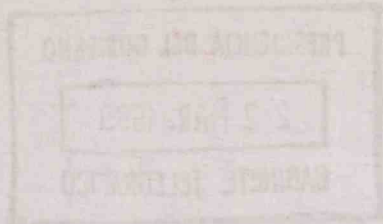
TELEGRAMA DEL PRESIDENTE DEL GOBIERNO A LA PRIMERA MINISTRO
BRITANICA MARGARET THACHER.

TEXTO:

CON MOTIVO DEL ATENTADO TERRORISTA EN IRLANDA DEL NORTE QUE
HA COSTADO LA VIDA AL COMISARIO HARRY BREEN Y AL COMANDANTE
DE DIVISION BOB BUCHANAN, LE RUEGO QUE RECIBA EL TESTIMONIO
DE MI SOLIDARIDAD Y DE MI MAS FIRME CONDENA. LE AGRADECERE
QUE TRANSMITA A LOS FAMILIARES DE LAS VICTIMAS MIS
SENTIMIENTOS DE CONDOLENCIA.

FELIPE GONZALEZ MARQUEZ
PRESIDENTE DEL GOBIERNO ESPAÑOL.





TEXT N 21

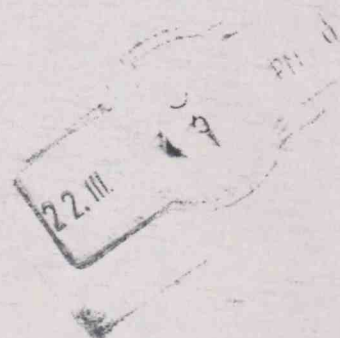
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MINISTERIO DE LA PRESIDENCIA DEL GOBIERNO
DEPARTAMENTO INTERNACIONAL

PRIME MINISTER
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. 124

MINISTERIO DE LA PRESIDENCIA DEL GOBIERNO A LA PRIMERA MINISTRO
PATRICIA MARGARET THACHER



CON MOTIVO DEL ATENTADO TERRORISTA EN LAZARDO DEL NORTE QUE
HA COSTADO LA VIDA AL COMANDANTE HARRY BROWN Y AL COMANDANTE
DE DIVISION ROS GUCHANAN. EL BUENO QUE REGIRA EN ESTOS MOMENTOS
DE LA COMPAGNIA Y DE MI MAS FIRME CONDENA. LE RECOMENDAMOS
QUE TRANSMITA A LOS FAMILIARES DE LAS VICTIMAS MIS
SENTIMIENTOS DE CONDOLENCIA.

FELIPE GONZALEZ MORALES
PRESIDENTE DEL GOBIERNO COSTARRICENSE





FAXT 421

19.30

PRESIDENCIA DEL GOBIERNO
22 MAR. 1989
GABINETE TELEGRAFICO

GABINETE DE LA PRESIDENCIA DEL GOBIERNO
DEPARTAMENTO INTERNACIONAL

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No 593/89

TRANSMISION DEL PRESIDENTE DEL GOBIERNO A LA PRIMERA MINISTRO
BRITANICA MARGARET THACHER.

TEXTO:

CON MOTIVO DEL ATENTADO TERRORISTA EN IRLANDA DEL NORTE QUE
HA COSTADO LA VIDA AL COMISARIO HARRY BREEN Y AL COMANDANTE
DE DIVISION BOB BUCHANAN, LE RUEGO QUE RECIBA EL TESTIMONIO
DE MI SOLIDARIDAD Y DE MI MAS FIRME CONDENA. LE AGRADECERE
QUE TRANSMITA A LOS FAMILIARES DE LAS VICTIMAS MIS
SENTIMIENTOS DE CONDOLENCIA.

FELIPE GONZALEZ MARQUEZ

PRESIDENTE DEL GOBIERNO ESPAÑOL.



[Mr. David Marshall]

made by a Scottish Office Minister about the progress of the investigation? If so, was he referring to the Lord Advocate?

Mr. Channon: I recall no such incident. I do not think that I have repudiated any Scottish Office Minister on anything—probably throughout my parliamentary career.

Mr. Alan Haselhurst (Saffron Walden): Is it not abundantly clear that my right hon. Friend took every reasonable steps to alert the authorities at Heathrow to the type of threat that might occur and that—using all the lavish hindsight that other hon. Members are prepared to use—the only possible action that might have made a difference in those precise circumstances would have been an international agreement that baggage in transit at airports should be further re-examined?

Mr. Channon: My hon. Friend has put his finger on an important point. Arrangements in that regard have been changed and we shall keep them under continuing review.

Mr. Ray Powell (Ogmore): I am appalled at the arrogance of the Secretary of State. As one of the few hon. Members who were here on 22 December to listen to his statement in the House, I recall that he did not disclose to the House or the nation the knowledge that he has talked about this afternoon. Why was it that on that occasion, when the whole nation was shocked by this tragedy, he was not honest enough to disclose all the facts that he disclosed subsequently?

Mr. Channon: With respect to the hon. Gentleman, I think that on reflection he will realise that that is an unfair remark. On 22 December, I told the House what I could. [Interruption.] I remember the hon. Gentleman being there; it was one of the few pleasing features of the day.

I also reported to the House on 10 January. The important point is that on that day the cause of the accident had not been established, as I told the hon. Member for Glasgow, Govan (Mr. Sillars) a few moments ago. That had to be established in the next few days. In such investigations, with delicate security considerations, the House of Commons must understand that if we wish to apprehend all the people involved it is essential that all of us exercise some restraint.

RUC Officers (Murder)

4.5 pm

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Tom King): With permission, Mr. Speaker, I wish to make a statement about the murder yesterday of two senior RUC officers.

At approximately 1 pm yesterday afternoon Chief Superintendent Harry Breen, the divisional commander of Armagh, together with Superintendent Bob Buchanan, the local border superintendent, left Armagh in Superintendent Buchanan's car to attend a meeting with their opposite numbers in the Garda Síochána in Dundalk. I understand that their meeting lasted about one hour and that they then left to return to Armagh.

At 3.55 pm the RUC received information that there were two people believed dead in a car on the Edenappa road south of Jonesborough in County Armagh. The car was located at 4.15 pm some 50 yd north of the border. This car was found to be Superintendent Buchanan's and the dead were identified as the Chief Superintendent Breen and Superintendent Buchanan. The clearance operation was put in hand immediately, involving both RUC and Army and with full assistance from the Garda and the Irish Army. Because of the risk of possible devices, this operation is necessarily taking some time to complete.

A full investigation is now under way into all the circumstances surrounding this outrage and in this connection I am grateful for the immediate and forthright assurance from the Taoiseach that every possible co-operation will be forthcoming to ensure that those responsible are apprehended and brought to justice.

Our immediate thoughts must be for the family, friends and serving colleagues of the two officers in extending our deepest sympathy to them in their tragic loss. Our duty to them now is to ensure that everything that can be done will be done to find the perpetrators of these murders, and that we take immediate account of any lessons that need to be drawn from this terrible event.

Nor, sadly, Mr. Speaker, are these the only murders in Northern Ireland in recent days and weeks. Since the beginning of this year, 25 people in Northern Ireland have died as a result of terrorist violence. More than half of those were the victims of purely sectarian attacks.

Only yesterday I called on the whole community to give the fullest support to the RUC in its work to protect everybody from the evil sectarian killers from whichever extreme they might come. Everybody owes a great debt to the RUC and the security forces for their unstinting efforts and courage against the terrorists, and indeed for their successes this year in the number of people who have been arrested and charged for many of these murders and attempted murders.

At a time when the whole community depends so much on the RUC, the murder of two senior officers shows how vile and evil is the IRA's intent. That is why it needs to know that such a deliberate attack on the security co-operation between ourselves and the Irish Government will only make us more determined to make that co-operation all the more effective and to rid the island of Ireland of the evil of terrorism.

Mr. Kevin McNamara (Kingston upon Hull, North): On behalf of my colleagues, I join with the Secretary of State in expressing our horror and dismay at the murders