



**NORTHERN IRELAND
Information Service**

10 March 1998

PAUL MURPHY MP CONDEMNS MORTAR ATTACK

The Political Development Minister, Mr Paul Murphy MP, has condemned this morning's mortar attack in Armagh as "stupid and cowardly". He said:

"I condemn without reservation this morning's mortar attack in Armagh. The recklessness of those who carried it out, and their disregard for the safety of innocent people, is demonstrated by the fact that one of the devices landed close to a nearby housing estate. Mercifully the alertness of the security forces prevented casualties, and they are to be congratulated on their speedy action.

It is too early to speculate as to which group was responsible. The police investigation is underway, and anyone with information should pass it to the RUC without delay.

What this attack will not do is to deflect us from our task of securing a lasting peace for the people of Northern Ireland, or disrupt progress towards a settlement."