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Statement by An Taoiseach, Mr. John Bruton T.D.

I condemn the bombing in Manchester, my heart goes out to all those who have been injured, some of whom will suffer greatly from terrible wounds.

This bomb was apparently timed to coincide with the admission by the IRA that their members were involved in the murder of Detective Garda Jerry McCabe and the wounding of Detective Garda Ben O Sullivan. This merely confirms what was already known, and does nothing to remove the loss, sorrow and grief of the McCabe and O Sullivan families.

This admission will not assuage the anger and revulsion of the people of Ireland over what happened in Adare.

The cynical exercise of attempting to obliterate this admission of guilt with another bomb attack in Britain will simply reinforce the Irish people's utter rejection of the IRA.

Whether or not the IRA in its own terms "authorised" the savage attack in Adare, IRA arms were used for the cold-blooded killing of Garda McCabe, just as IRA explosives would appear now to have been used for a bloody bombing in Manchester.

Sinn Fein has agreed in principle with the Mitchell Report, that these arms should be taken out of Irish politics forever.

The pain and suffering of Garda McCabe's and Garda O Sullivan's families, as well as that of the victims of the Manchester attack, cry out for an honest, not a cynical and hypocritical response from the Republican movement.

The Mitchell principles, accepted by Sinn Fein, say that the bomb material used in Manchester and the Kalashnikov used to kill Jerry McCabe, should, as part of the decommissioning process, be subject to "complete destruction in a manner that contributes to public safety". There will be no public safety for people like Jerry McCabe until that happens. Nor will there be safety for the public of Manchester, or anywhere else in these islands.

The news management aspect of the Manchester bomb shows that the IRA are

cynical and empty of any humanity. They knew well that they would be embarrassed by having to admit, despite earlier denials, that their units did murder Det. Garda Jerry McCabe.

So, to reduce the public relations embarrassment, they evidently timed another callous bombing in Britain to take news attention away from their admission of responsibility for Jerry McCabe's murder.

They see human lives in Manchester as trivia to be used up in cynical news management. The cynicism is all the more evident when one bears in mind that the all-party talks, so long the proclaimed demand of the Republican movement, are now already available to them if only the IRA would renounce this sort of atrocity.

Sinn Fein continues to associate itself with the IRA, allowing themselves to be used as accomplices in the IRA's cynical news management strategy, providing political cover when that is needed for IRA actions, and credulous acceptance of any IRA statement no matter how contradictory.

This immorality can only be ended by a complete, unconditional, and irrevocable end to IRA violence.

ENDS.

15 June 1996