

EXC. Ambassador

(21) + (2) Philany
Pres, DFA

11 JULY 1996

Joint Secretariat

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF STATE, SIR PATRICK MAYHEW QC MP

The following statement was issued today by the Secretary of State, Sir Patrick Mayhew QC, MP:

"I entirely support the further operational decision which the Chief Constable has made, which I know was informed by a wide range of contacts and discussions, including the valuable contribution made by the four Church leaders.

It is self-evidently right for police decisions to take account of changing and developing circumstances.

The violence which has disfigured the Province has to stop.

The events of the last few days have exposed how divisive the issue of marches and street parades can be in our society. There is no simple and easy way to resolve this problem. But neither can there be any question of ignoring it. The Government agrees with the Church leaders that the long-term solution and the immediate problems cannot be separated, and for its part will be considering urgently over the next few days what steps need to be taken to avoid in future years the conflict and the dangers we have witnessed this month."

PST, PSS, S/S Ó hUiginn,
Counsellors A-I, Section,
Messrs Teahon, Donlon &
Dalton, Ambassadors
London & Washington, Joint
Secretary