

Response to Mr. Gerry Adams

Responding to Mr. Adams, a Government spokesman said that the Taoiseach's focus had been, not on attacking the Sinn Féin leadership, but on calling on the Republican movement to respond, by practical means rather than by rhetoric, to the clear wishes of Irish people everywhere. What the Taoiseach had done was to give expression to the universal revulsion and rejection by Irish people of the murderous attacks in Adare and Manchester.

Mr. Adams had said that he is opposed to 'all armed actions'. The only people who have been carrying out armed actions recently are the IRA. The Irish people want an end, now, to those armed actions. The people want, first, peace and also serious negotiations to provide a fair and balanced settlement than can underpin peace and ensure that it lasts.

Sinn Féin have indicated that they can subscribe to the six principles set down by the International Body headed by Senator Mitchell.

One of these principles is:

"To renounce for themselves and to oppose any effort by others, to use force, or threaten to use force, to influence the course or the outcome of all-party negotiations".

The Taoiseach repeated that, far from seeking to exclude Sinn Féin, the Government had taken practical action to ensure that such negotiations were available, without preconditions, and clearly understood to be available, both in its dealings with the British Government and through the information it had provided in official-level contacts with Sinn Féin. It was now time for Sinn Féin to indicate how they intended to give effect in a practical way to their readiness to subscribe to the Mitchell Principles.

The practical action that the Government and the Irish people wish to see is the unequivocal restoration of the cessation of violence. Mr. Adams refers to "an incomplete process of negotiation at Stormont". The only reason it is incomplete is because the Republican Movement turned its back on the "alternative to armed struggle". They know that armed struggle is a cul-de-sac. They should now reverse out of it and return to the broad avenue of dialogue and negotiation.