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*-Clinton**File John 17/3**cc PB  
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## DRAFT POTUS STATEMENT CONDEMNING MURDER IN NORTHERN IRELAND

I am deeply saddened by the murder last Friday of John Slane in Belfast. Our sympathy goes out to Mr. Slane's family and friends. This horrific killing deserves universal condemnation. I hope the British authorities will quickly identify who is responsible.

As I have said so many times, nothing worth having in Northern Ireland can be achieved by killing and maiming, terror and threats. The people of Northern Ireland deserve a future of peace and prosperity unmarred by brutality and fear in their daily lives. I urge the people of both communities to make known in every way they can their repudiation of violence by any group, for any reason. I will continue to stand with those who stand for peace, today as we commemorate the saint who brought the message of the Prince of Peace to Ireland, and every day.

*c.c. (fax)*

*Mr. Sheinwald News D  
Mr. Lamont RID FCO  
Mr. Brooker NIO (L)  
Mr. Wood NIO (B)  
PS/Sir P Mayhew  
PS/No 10*

*To be issued this morning.**I said it looked fine to me...*

*Anthony Carr  
17/3*