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State Dept  
Briefing: 17/6/97

XXX us to Zagreb.

BURNS: Yes, Bill?

QUESTION: Speaking of this, Nick -- thank you -- of another peace process, it seems that the bicycle has gone down and perhaps been run over by a lorrie. In Northern Ireland, basically I wanted to ask if this country is going to sanction Sinn Fein, now that Tony Blair and the Irish Republic government have condemned this terrible act, this terrible atrocity yesterday.

BURNS: I would encourage you to read President Clinton's statement that he issued yesterday condemning the murder of the two policemen.

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The IRA has proven again it's a vicious terrorist organization. And we have no business to do with the IRA.

As for Sinn Fein, sooner or later Sinn Fein has to make a basic choice. Do they want peace, or do they want to support terrorism, or be associated, implicated with terrorism.

And Sinn Fein will have no place at the multi-party talks, no place according to the United Kingdom and the government of Ireland as long as there is not a cease-fire and end -- a cessation of all terrorist activities, which is currently not the case.

The United States fully shares the outrage of the Irish government and the government of the United Kingdom over this incident. We're very disturbed by it, and we're not going to have much at all to do with Sinn Fein, as long as Sinn Fein carries on these activities. As long as the IRA carries on these activities, excuse me.

QUESTION: Nick, does this government believe what Mr. Blair said about the cynicism and hypocrisy of Sinn Fein and the IRA being...

BURNS: We fully agree with the outrage of the British government. Two policemen in Northern Ireland were gunned down brutally. And that frustration and outrage is shared by the Irish people and the Irish government. The IRA, they're a bunch of sick, isolated, brutal terrorists.

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And they ought to be condemned by everyone around the world.

(Press and Public Affairs Department)

6/17/97 4:00 PM