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DRAFT POTUS STATEMENT

I am outraged by the callous murder of two policemen in Northern Ireland. I extend my deepest sympathy to the families of the the two slain officers.

had ? The IRA has claimed responsibility ~~for~~ for this brutal act of terrorism. There can be no reason, no excuse, for these heinous crimes. There is nothing patriotic or heroic about ~~shooting two men in the back.~~ The overwhelming majority of the people of Ireland, North and South, join me in repudiating violence and murder. They know that a just and lasting peace can only come about through painstaking dialogue and negotiation. The true heroes and patriots are the many people of both communities who work tirelessly and peacefully for reconciliation and understanding. I will continue to do all I can to support their efforts and the efforts of the political leaders participating in the Belfast peace talks.

these
killings

[Call on loyalists to show restraint.]

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