

RESTRICTED - POLICY

DRAFT TEXT OF STATEMENT ON "BLOODY SUNDAY"
BY NORTHERN IRELAND SECRETARY OF STATE

The New Year is a time of hope, and of promise of a better future. The Government will tackle the issues of Northern Ireland in that spirit, pursuing the prospect and the hopes for the peace process ^{and} ~~and~~ keeping ^{our} ~~its~~ promises to all the parties concerned.
we shall

Above all, the New Year is a time to look forward, learning from history in order to apply those lessons to the future. Later this month, ~~in that spirit~~ ^{in that spirit} we shall pause once more to look back at an event 28 years ago which still carries its own special sad and painful memories.

On Sunday 30 January 1972 British soldiers opened fire in the streets of Londonderry. Thirteen civilians were killed and others were injured. The Widgery Tribunal was set up at that time, to consider the available evidence and to establish an objective view of those events.

Recently the Irish Government and others ~~many~~ ^{some of} concerned put before us ~~several~~ new allegations which had not been made to the Widgery Tribunal. We have looked at these with great care. In particular we have considered a possible source of further evidence and I have instructed a senior independent lawyer to investigate it ~~further~~ ^{more}.

Following the investigation a further statement will be made by the Government. We shall take whatever action is required consistent with the law.

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