

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

## IRELAND



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7 December 1983

## SHOOTING OF MR EDGAR GRAHAM

The following statement was made today in the House of Commons by  
The Hon Adam Butler MP, Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office:

With permission, Mr Speaker, I should like to make a statement on the  
murder earlier today of Mr Edgar Graham. I do so on behalf of my  
Rt hon Friend who is in Northern Ireland.

Mr Edgar Graham, a member of the Northern Ireland Assembly, was  
murdered at 10.50 this morning outside Queen's University Belfast,  
where he lectured. He was approached whilst talking to a colleague  
on the pavement by 2 youths on foot who fired a number of shots and  
then fled. The Provisional IRA have claimed responsibility for the  
murder. A full police enquiry was mounted immediately.

I know that the whole House will join me in extending sympathy to  
Mr Graham's family as also to those Rt hon and hon Members who were  
his colleagues. It will also want to join me in expressing total  
condemnation of this outrage. Edgar Graham was the kind of young  
man who is needed in Northern Ireland politics. His intellectual  
gifts would have enabled him to make a good career in any number of  
fields. He chose to devote them to the process of democracy.

At 28 he was already a senior figure in his party including being  
secretary of the Ulster Unionist Council. I can speak with personal  
knowledge of his political skills and penetrating mind as the  
Chairman of the Finance and Personnel Committee of the Northern  
Ireland Assembly. I therefore express my own feelings in addition  
to those of the Government in lamenting his untimely death.