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Mr R Murphy

ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES: Ó SHEIRBHÍSI ÉOLAIS AN RIALTAIS Tel: (01) 767571 Telex: 25800

<p style="text-align: center;">ON BEHALF OF</p> <p>Department of Foreign Affairs, 80 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin, 2. Tel. (01) 780822.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">THAR CEANN</p> <p>An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha, 80 Faiche Stlabhna, Baile Átha Cliath, 2. Tel. (01) 780822.</p>
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Statement by the Minister-designate for Foreign Affairs, Senator James Dooge in London, on 14 October 1981.

My attention has been drawn to a front page report in the Daily Express of 13 October 1981 where an attempt is made to link the statements of certain Irish American politicians with the Provisional IRA and in particular the recent deplorable outrage in London. The Irish Government has long recognised and appreciated the efforts of responsible American politicians of Irish descent, notably Speaker O'Neill, Senators Kennedy and Moynihan and Governor Carey, to bring about a peaceful and lasting solution to the Northern Ireland question. These public representatives have a long and distinguished record of condemning violence, and the actions of the IRA in particular. They have consistently worked to channel Irish American concern about Northern Ireland away from organisations in the US associated with violence and towards the search for constructive solutions. They have made it abundantly clear that Irish unity can only come about through reconciliation and consent. In doing so they have taken a responsible and indeed courageous stance, and they have in fact contributed to saving lives. Their actions, far from being attacked deserve the appreciation of all those who genuinely desire the return of peace.

14 October 1981