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SUBJECT: LOUGHINISLAND MURDERS: IRISH REACTIONS

SUMMARY

1. WIDESPREAD CONDEMNATION OF THE MURDERS AT LOUGHINISLAND ON 18 JUNE, AND CALLS FOR BOTH GOVERNMENTS TO PRESS ON WITH TALKS.

DETAIL

2. TODAY'S PAPERS (20 JUNE) ARE DOMINATED BY THE UVF MASSACRE AT LOUGHINISLAND AND REACTIONS TO IT. SPEAKING IN THE UNITED STATES THE TAOISEACH DESCRIBED THE ATTACK AS ' AN ACT OF BARBARIC SAVAGERY WHICH WAS TOTALLY INCOMPREHENSIBLE. THE TIME HAS COME FOR EVERYONE TO ACCEPT THAT PEACE CAN NO LONGER BE DELAYED. ' THE TANAISTE DESCRIBED THE ATTACK AS ' A NIGHT OF SAVAGERY AND MASSACRE ' SAYING ' ONE COULD GET CLOSE TO THE POINT OF DESPAIR '. HE BELIEVED THAT THE SADNESS AND LOSS RESULTING FROM THE ATTACK WAS ' GOING TO EXACERBATE THE DIFFICULTIES IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE PROBLEMS AND MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THOSE OF US WHO ARE TRYING TO BRING ABOUT PEACE. '

3. BRUTON, FINE GAEL LEADER, SAID ' IT IS UP TO CONSTITUTIONAL POLITICIANS TO CREATE AGREED STRUCTURES SO THAT PEOPLE LIKE THESE ARE PUSHED BACK TO THE MARGINS OF LIFE AND OFF THE CENTRE STAGE THEY NOW OCCUPY. ' HARNEY, PD LEADER, CALLED ON ALL CONSTITUTIONAL PARTIES TO FACE UP TO THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES. DE ROSSA, DEMOCRATIC LEFT LEADER, CALLED ON BOTH GOVERNMENTS TO EXPEDITE THE CURRENT TALKS PROCESS.

4. THE IRISH TIMES SAYS THE SOLE EFFECT OF SUCH ACTS ' IS TO WEAKEN DEMOCRATIC POLITICS AND PERPETUATE THE CULTURE OF RAW VIOLENCE IN WHICH INNOCENT VICTIMS IN BOTH COMMUNITIES ARE ARBITRARILY CHOSEN FOR SACRIFICE. ' THE IRISH PRESS QUESTIONS HOW ONE CAN EVEN BEGIN ' TO UNDERSTAND THE MENTALITY OF THOSE WHO COULD PERPETRATE SUCH HORRORS, OR THE DEPTH OF HATRED THAT MOTIVATES THEM. ' IT CONCLUDES THAT ' EFFORTS BY BOTH GOVERNMENTS TO FIND A WAY FORWARD MUST BE MAINTAINED. '

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