

NEWS RELEASE

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FROM THE OFFICE OF
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ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY REACTS TO JOINT DECLARATION BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER AND TAOISEACH, 15 DECEMBER 1993

The Archbishop of Canterbury has commented as follows on the Joint Declaration.

"I warmly welcome this joint initiative by the Taoiseach and the Prime Minister. It is my prayer that this courageous Declaration will be followed by a complete end to violence. It is time to turn away from the dead-end of coercion and suffering. A period of calm is now required so that habits of respect and peaceful dialogue can take root.

"This Declaration cannot bring peace by itself. But it could open up pathways to reconciliation, trust and mutual respect between the different traditions of Ireland and between all the people of the British Isles. I believe that this is God's will.

"I affirm my wholehearted support for all those people, especially in Northern Ireland itself, who are prepared to set their fears aside and put their faith in democracy and peace."

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