

[Speech\Broad2]

[As at 15.12.93]

[514 words]

DRAFT BROADCAST

I want to talk to you tonight about Ireland.

Northern Ireland is a part of the United Kingdom, like Surrey or Yorkshire; like ~~Devon~~/Clwyd] or Strathclyde.

But in that part of the United Kingdom we have seen violent sectarian murder again and again throughout the last quarter of a century.

After 25 years of killing all of us will remember particular atrocities.

I for one can never forget the cruel murders at Enniskillen on Remembrance Sunday.

And the courage of [] Wilson, whose daughter was murdered as she stood beside him, but who still campaigns for peace not vengeance.

At times, though, it has seemed as though we have almost become immured to this violence.

We shouldn't be.

We would not accept it in Surrey or Yorkshire; ~~Devon~~ ^{Clwyd} or Strathclyde.

And we must not accept it in Northern Ireland either.

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- 2 - - cannot make peace @ a distance

Two years ago I met the Prime Minister of the Irish Republic in Downing Street.

We agreed then that we would work to see if we could find a joint agreement between our two Governments that might help to bring about peace.

Something long sought, but never obtained.

We both wanted to end the violence that has stained Ireland, both North and South, for far too long.

We have been working steadily at this ever since.

Today, we were able to announce a Joint Declaration which sets out the principles we will uphold in our search for peace.

It enshrines the constitutional guarantee we have already offered to Northern Ireland.

(but every alternative knows that)
For as long as the people of Northern Ireland wish to remain part of the United Kingdom, we will uphold their right to do so.

The Declaration also sets out how the two Governments will work together in the future.

To bring both communities together.

And to promote peace and reconciliation.

But peace can only come if the men of violence end their killing.

This Declaration sets out the way for them to do that.

By renouncing violence and joining in constitutional discussions about how to ensure a peaceful future for Northern Ireland.

I don't know if this will work.

I don't know if it will reach out to the men who kill.

But it must be right to try.

No one now can doubt the position of the two Governments.

No one now can doubt our joint and implacable determination to withstand terrorism if it should continue.

And everyone does now know that there is another way that is open to safeguard the future of Ulster.

The onus now lies with the men of violence.

They can determine whether they will talk instead of bomb.

Discuss instead of murder.

They can if they wish deliver peace.

And if they do, the Declaration we have issued today will give ^{all const. parties} them a role in discussing Northern Ireland's future.

As a legitimate political party.

Committed to democratic and peaceful means.

The time for them to choose peace is long overdue.

The circumstances have never been better.

I hope and pray they will take the opportunity that lies there.

[?Christmas ending]