

## NATIONAL ARCHIVES

### IRELAND



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<b>Title:</b>	Text, received from the British Embassy, of statement to be made by James Callaghan, MP, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, in the House of Commons on the death of Christopher Ewart-Biggs, the United Kingdom Ambassador to Ireland, who was assassinated by the Provisional Irish Republican Army in a car bomb explosion on 21 July 1976
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The House will be aware that there was an explosion in Dublin this morning at approximately 0940 hours which wrecked the British Ambassador's car. Mr. Christopher Ewart-Biggs, the Ambassador, and Miss Judith Cook, Private Secretary to the Permanent Under-Secretary in the Northern Ireland Office, were killed. Mr. Brian Cubbon, the Permanent Under Secretary to the Northern Ireland Office and the driver of the car, Mr. Brian O'Driscoll, are now in hospital in Dublin. Both are very seriously injured.

According to the information so far available to us, the explosion was caused by a land-mine placed in the road about 150 yards from the Ambassador's residence.

I, myself, spoke, a short while ago, to the Taoiseach. He expressed his deepest sympathy and regret and has undertaken that every effort will be made to bring to justice those responsible for this atrocity. He reiterated the Irish Government's intention to continue to safeguard the lives of UK citizens in the Republic.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary is sending Mr. Richard Sykes, the Senior Official dealing with Irish affairs, to Dublin so that he can report back urgently on the situation.

I am sure that the whole House will join with me in expressing our deep sense of shock at this outrage and extending our sympathy to the families of the killed and injured.

The Queen has been informed. She was horrified to hear of the outrage and has extended her sympathy to the relatives of those involved.

1. Message received by 'phone from M. Hickman, British Embassy, at 2.15 p.m. today. The Prime Minister is to make the statement in the House this

afternoon.  
on  
21/1/7

2. Shown to Secretary, who read the message to the Taoiseach.

3. M. O. Dubhala.