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At about 5.30 p.m. on Saturday the 16th instant, I received separate telephone calls from Mr. Ivan Cooper, M.P. and Mr. P. Kennedy, M.P. Both said that the Catholic area of Ardoyne in Belfast was surrounded by Paisleyites and B Specials without any protection whatever. Unless British troops were moved in before night-fall, a massacre of the inhabitants of the area was inevitable. Shortly afterwards, the same information was conveyed to me by Mr. Brendan Halligan, General Secretary of the Labour Party in Dublin, who said that he had received the news from members of the Party - two Deputies and two Senators - who were on a fact-finding mission in Belfast. I immediately informed the Taoiseach who asked Mr. McCann Secretary of the Department of External Affairs (who was with the Taoiseach at the time) to convey the information to our Embassy in London. Mr. McCann telephoned Mr. Kevin Rushe, Minister Plenipotentiary and Chargé d'Affaires in London, who, at about 6.20 p.m., telephoned to say that, at 6.07 p.m., he had contacted the Home Office (who were most reluctant to listen to what he had to say, but agreed, under protest, to take the message), and that, at 6.15 p.m., he had conveyed the information to the Foreign Office. Mr. Rushe was given an assurance that his message would be conveyed without delay to Mr. Callaghan. I advised the Taoiseach and Mr. McCann accordingly.

18th August, 1969.