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S. ion fhreagra chun:—
(Address any reply to:—)

AN RÚNAÍ
(The Secretary)

faoin uimhir seo:—
(quoting:—)

URGENT AND CONFIDENTIAL

417/153/4 III

5 September 1969



AN ROINN GNÓTAÍ EACTRAÇA
Department of External Affairs,

baile áta cliat 2
Dublin, 2.

To All Missions

I am to inform you that the Government have decided to request the inscription of an item entitled

"The Situation in the North of Ireland"

on the agenda of the twenty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly of the United Nations which opens in New York on 16th September, 1969. A copy of the letter of request from our Permanent Representative to the Secretary-General is attached, together with a copy of the accompanying Explanatory Memorandum.

Please arrange to have our request brought to the attention of the Government(s) to which you are accredited and to seek their support for the adoption of the item on the agenda and for our position on the subject in subsequent consideration by the General Assembly.

Inscription of the item on the agenda will come up for consideration in the first instance by the 25-nation General Committee, made up of the President, 17 Vice-Presidents and 7 Committee Chairmen of the twenty-fourth session. So far as we are at present aware these 25 positions are likely to be occupied by the following countries:-

President: Liberia (Miss Angie Brooks)

Vice-Presidents: Barbados, Chile, China, Denmark, France, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mongolia, Nigeria, Panama, USSR, USA, UK, and four others (all Asian)

<u>Chairmen of Committees:</u>	<u>First</u>	:	<u>Pakistan</u>	(Mr. Agha Shahi)
	<u>Special Political:</u>		<u>Poland</u>	(Mr. Kulaga)
	<u>Second</u>	:	<u>Greece</u>	(Mr. Caranicas)
	<u>Third</u>	:	<u>Mauretania</u>	(Madame Abdallaha Auld Daddah Turkia)
	<u>Fourth</u>	:	<u>Congo(D.R.)</u>	(Mr. Idzumbuir)
	<u>Fifth</u>	:	<u>Brazil</u>	(Senor David Silveira da Mota, Jr.)
	<u>Sixth</u>	:	<u>Ecuador</u>	

Support for inscription of the item should be sought in particular amongst these 25 members of the General Committee by those of our Missions which are either accredited to any of the countries concerned or in a position to make useful representations to diplomatic representatives of those in which we have no representation.

Rúnaí

Letter dated 5th September, 1969, from the Permanent
Representative of Ireland to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

On the instructions of my Government, I have the honour,
by virtue of Rule 15 of the Rules of Procedure of the
General Assembly, to request the inclusion in the agenda
of the twenty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly
of an item entitled "The Situation in the North of Ireland"
as an item of an important and urgent character.

In accordance with Rule 20 of the Rules of Procedure an
Explanatory Memorandum is attached.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The long standing grievances of the large minority in that area of the North of Ireland (comprising the Six Counties of Antrim, Armagh, Derry, Down, Fermanagh and Tyrone) which is still under British jurisdiction, found expression last year in a movement of protest which rapidly gained force and spread through all the major cities and towns in the area. By the Government of Ireland Act 1920 the British Government set up a separate administration in the area, and while retaining overriding control in Westminster, conferred on the Belfast Parliament certain powers which, though limited, are of very great significance for the day to day life of the people.

2. In October, 1968 when the first major civil rights protest march took place in Derry City, the minority found new direction through the spontaneous welding together of existing local minority protest groups into a broad-based non-political and non-sectarian civil rights movement. This movement rapidly grew in determination and purpose mainly through the justice of the civil rights case, but also through the need to meet resolutely the increasing opposition, usually of a violent nature, which civil rights supporters encountered at the hands of reactionary sectarian groups organised with the tacit or active approval of large sections of the majority population and with the support or connivance of the authorities, particularly through their agents, the Royal Ulster Constabulary and a special partisan para-military force known as the "Ulster Special Constabulary", (the "B Specials").

3. The slow pace of reform and the equivocation of the authorities on the implementation of specific reforms which had been promised added to the frustration of the minority with the result that communal tension and polarisation steadily

increased. In this situation, on the 12th August, 1969, despite a specific warning by local political, religious and civil rights leaders and an approach by the Government of Ireland to the British Government, a sectarian parade was permitted by the authorities to take place against the wishes of most of the inhabitants of the City of Derry in extremely provocative circumstances. The consequences were a major attempt at violent repression of the people of Derry by the police and outbreaks of rioting in most of the major towns in the whole area culminating in bitter and wanton attacks on the minority in Belfast with resultant loss of life and destruction of homes. It is estimated that at least 10,000 persons have been affected and are in need of help as a result, either through the destruction of their homes during the violence or because they were forced through intimidation or fear to flee as refugees across the Border to the South and to Britain. The incipient civil war situation was contained only by the sending in of British troops on the grounds that the British Government claim ultimate responsibility for the protection of those who live in Northern Ireland when as on this occasion a breakdown of law and order occurs. In this connection it must be stated that, in the view of the Government of Ireland, the deployment of British troops once again on active service on Irish soil after a lapse of half a century is not acceptable nor would they be likely to restore peaceful conditions in the long term.

4. Having regard to the gravity of the situation, the Government of Ireland after failing to gain acceptance by the British authorities of certain proposals for defusing the situation, decided to make an immediate request to the United Nations Security Council for the despatch to the area of a United Nations peace-keeping force. The request for an urgent meeting of the Council to consider the matter under Article 35 of the Charter is contained in the letter dated 17th August 1969

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(S/9394) from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the President of the Security Council. The letter stressed that "in making this appeal they must emphasize that, responding to the feelings of the people of Ireland, they cannot stand by and see Irish men, women and children suffer injury or worse in the Six Counties of Northern Ireland, and cannot tolerate the tensions created along the Border which separates part of Ireland from the area of our present effective jurisdiction". The Minister for External Affairs of Ireland at the invitation of the Council addressed the Council on 20th August (S/PV.1503). The Council adjourned without taking a decision about inscribing the question on its agenda.

5. The agitation and violence in the North, which during the past year attracted increasing attention from world opinion, are directly caused by the failure of the authorities concerned to grant the just demands of the oppressed minority over a long period for equal treatment with the majority.

Discrimination has ranged from an undemocratic electoral system, particularly as regards local government, to unfair allocation of public housing and unfair practices in both public and private employment, all buttressed by a system of exceptional legislation designed to secure the suppression of public opinion and perpetuate the status quo. These practices have been recently described in the Review of the International Commission of Jurists (Number 2, June 1969). The current resistance of the **local** majority in the area to reasonable minority demands for change, in accordance with fundamental political and religious rights, is the product of fifty years of social stagnation, leading to the classic cycle of fear, prejudice, discrimination and violence, which have become part of the fabric of the society in the area. The continued existence of this type of society with its outmoded set of values is due primarily to the cutting off

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some fifty years ago of the Six County area from the rest of Ireland and the consequent entrenchment of a sectarian local majority controlling the parliament then established in Belfast.

6. The Government of Ireland have always condemned the existence of discrimination in any form in any part of Ireland, and they have constantly deplored intolerance and prejudice in the Six County area. They have striven for the acceptance of the principle of equal political and social rights for all their fellow Irishmen in the Six County area and for economic cooperation in the common interests of all the people of Ireland; and they have also urged that progress towards reform be accelerated. The Government have at the same time stressed that the root cause of the demonstrations and unrest in the North is the unjust partition of Ireland which arose out of British policy against the wishes of the overwhelming majority of the Irish people. They are convinced that the reunification of Ireland gives the only hope for the evolution of balanced political and social relations between all sections of the Irish people in accordance with the principles of the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples set forth in resolution 1514 (XV) adopted by the General Assembly on 14th December, 1960 in particular paragraph 6 thereof which states:

"Any attempt at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and the territorial integrity of a country is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations".

7. Successive Irish Governments have emphasized that the reunification of Ireland should be achieved not by force but by peaceful means and recently the present Government indicated their desire to explore every reasonable prospect with the Government of the United Kingdom so that Irishmen can once again

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live together in peace and justice as one community and one nation. The Government have every hope that with goodwill and better understanding the causes of the demonstrations and unrest in the North of Ireland can be eliminated with reasonable speed and in a peaceful and orderly manner, in keeping with the interests of the Irish nation as a whole and of the United Kingdom as well. They fear, however, that unless the causes of the present unrest there are speedily eliminated in a determined manner, the situation will become worse leading to further violence, destruction and bloodshed with serious consequences both for the whole of Ireland and the United Kingdom.

8. In these circumstances, the Government of Ireland believe that the General Assembly should consider the situation in the North of Ireland so that, in accordance with the principles of the Charter, discrimination in all its forms in that area be eliminated; human rights and fundamental freedoms be established there for all; and the danger of serious international friction between Ireland and the United Kingdom be avoided. In this connection the Government of Ireland consider that Article 1.3 of the Charter defining one of the Purposes of the United Nations and Articles 13, 35, 55 and 60 have particular relevance to the situation.

9. For all the foregoing reasons, the Government of Ireland wish to request inscription on the agenda of the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "The Situation in the North of Ireland" as an item of an important and urgent character under Rule 15 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly.