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Statement by Dr. P. J. Hillery, Minister for External Affairs
of Ireland
10th July, 1970

I have seen the challenge issued to me by Mr. Robin Chichester Clark M.P. and I take him up on it. The Taoiseach as Head of the Irish Government has repeatedly said that there is no intention on our part to seek the unification of Ireland except by agreement peacefully reached with the people of Northern Ireland. Mr. Chichester Clark has no reason therefore to feel that the territorial integrity of Northern Ireland is under any kind of physical threat; but ^{the Irish} ~~my~~ Government expects the application of all the rules of democracy to Northern Ireland as they are practised in Britain and here.

There is no need for the Northern majority to fear for its identity or its interests in a united Ireland as these will be respected and cherished by all Irishmen.

I have not asked for cancellation of all the Orange parades on July 13th. I have asked only that Orange parades should not be forced through areas where they are designed to be and seen to be an assertion of the domination of one tradition over another. I am sure that Mr. Chichester-Clark will be glad to recognise that the cancellation of that kind of parade is the right thing to do and that he will support me in asking that it be done.
