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9th August, 1971

Statement issued by the Government Information Bureau
on behalf of the Taoiseach following the introduction
of internment without trial in Northern Ireland

The introduction of internment without trial in the North this morning is deplorable evidence of the political poverty of the policies which have been pursued there for some time and which I condemned publicly last week.

Even if it succeeds in damping down the current wave of violence, it does nothing to forward the necessary long-term solutions.

The sympathies of the Government and of the vast majority of the Irish people, North and South, go to the Nationalist minority in the North who are again victimised by an attempt to maintain a regime which has long since shown itself incapable of just government and contemptuous of the norms of the British democracy to which they pretend allegiance.

Hardship will be suffered by many families as a consequence of internment and I have instructed the Army authorities to make accommodation available at Army camps to any dependents of internees who seek such accommodation.

In the present situation in the North it is imperative that further parades be now banned there and that the law be administered impartially and that a conference of all the interested parties take place in order to obtain a new form of administration for Northern Ireland. There is no other way to avoid further deaths and injury.
