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ADDRESS BY THE TAOISEACH,

Mr. JOHN LYNCH, T.D.

R.T.E. 9.00 p.m. 11.7.1970.

The Irish poet, John Montague, from County Tyrone,
says: "Old moulds are broken in the North".

We stand on the brink of a great achievement.

There are those who would stop us - on both sides
of the Border.

I speak to them first. I say to them that in this
island there is no solution to be found to our disagreements
by shooting each other. There is no real invader here.
We are all Irish in all our different kinds of ways. We
must not now or ever in the future show anything to each other
except tolerance, forbearance - and neighbourly love.

I speak now to the Irish people, North and South,
Protestant, Presbyterian, Catholic - and simply Irish.
This whole unhappy situation is an Irish quarrel. I admit
that others come into it either because they misunderstand
it or because they misuse it - but they are not an essential
part of it. We must settle this quarrel among us.

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I ask the Irish people of the majority tradition to recognise the truth of what I have just said, Let us not appeal to past gods as if past generations had said the last word about Ireland. We have our opportunity to say for our generation what is in our hearts and minds. I think that there is in us an instinct for good, for enjoyment, for beauty and, above all, for peace with our neighbours.

At the moment I speak to you I do not know whether all the scheduled parades will take place in the North on Monday. But if they do let me ask you to ignore those few who march to provoke you. For theirs is the mistake. If they must do this kind of thing let you not yourselves prevent them - because one day they will know it is a wrong thing to do and stop themselves.

I now speak to the other great tradition in Ireland and in our history - that of the majority in the North. We have had invasions piled upon invasions. Danes, Normans, English, Scots, followed into Ireland our earlier migration and became part of our soil, of our blood and bone, of the green fields we cultivate.

Yours was our latest migration.

But some men, in their interests which are not Irish interests, have kept us apart and have continued an unnecessary quarrel until today. Do you mistrust yourselves so much as to refuse to see that your home is here - not across any waters?

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Since the Irish State was founded 50 years ago my predecessors and I have said again and again that we have no wish to confront you or to destroy you. Indeed we think that a branch has been broken from the Irish tree.

If a few of you are so misled as to go on brandishing a domination over your nearest neighbours no words of mine can stop you. But the world will not respect you.

Do not be persuaded to sully your own great tradition.

All Irish traditions are intertwined; let us all cherish them all.

I now speak to the British Government and people.

Through the Minister for External Affairs my Government have done all humanly possible to prevent what your Home Secretary thinks might lead to bloodshed. Why should we, the Celts and the English, go on misunderstanding each other? There is no imperial role for you in Ireland. We have fought the good fight against each other. Neither of us should claim victory because that is never the best result. Is it not better that we should both claim, as civilised peoples, the capacity to settle the last remaining disagreement between us by peaceful means?

In this affair I am committed to two things which I value deeply.

The first is my commitment to the idea that the most difficult problems can be solved peacefully if goodwill is first achieved - and ulterior motives are eliminated.

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Therefore, I will state my aim. It is that Ireland should be united. In this there is a motive - so I will state that too. It is that in this island there shall never again be fear, turning to hatred, turning to bloodshed.

My second commitment is to Anglo-Irish friendship. Our two Governments have surmounted many difficulties to establish a unique relationship. Our peoples know and like each other. This Irish quarrel, in which your Government have responsibility, must not go on coming between us.

Dr. Hillery has stated to the world Press in the past few days the Irish Government's case. In their response, - while I place no burden on them - I feel that they have become in a sense a protector of Northern Ireland from its own passions. Just grievances must be redressed. All the world is there to see where the failure lies.

There is no military means of preventing people, determined on destruction, from living out their disaster. This is not a job for soldiers. And let me say on this that I much regret the injuries suffered by British soldiers during the course of the duties imposed on them in the North of Ireland; these young British boys find themselves in a situation which must seem to them inexplicable.

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It is for political leaders to govern wisely and justly. I accept the guarantees of the British Government that they will do so.

My Government is the second guarantor.

Therefore, you who have suffered distress and indignity in the North are no longer unprotected victims.

It is not in your interest to interfere, in any way, with any Orange parade. I ask you not to do so.