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Title: Letter from HJ McCann, Secretary of the Department of External Affairs, to NS Ó Nualláin, Secretary of the Department of the Taoiseach, regarding reaction from Sir Edward Peck of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on the Falls Road curfew and contentious parades in Northern Ireland, communicated to Ó Nualláin in order to provide an answer to a Dáil Question addressed to Taoiseach Jack Lynch.

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ROINN GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 2
DUBLIN 2

6 Iúil 1970

An Rúnaí
Roinn an Taoisigh

With reference to Private Notice Question for Tuesday, 7th July, put down by Deputy Liam Cosgrave, I am to state that a telephone report from Ambassador O'Sullivan as to the reaction of Sir Edward Peck of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to the representations made by the Ambassador in this matter was

- (1) that as the shooting had been coming from one area it was decided to disarm that area, and
- (2) that London would look at the question of the parades in the light of the results of the cancellations last week-end. In a subsequent conversation Sir Edward Peck emphasised that the decision on the parades was a matter for Mr. Chichester-Clark.

Neither of these initial reactions at official level is satisfactory.

I suggest that Deputy Cosgrave's question be taken together with the Private Notice Question raised by Deputy Barry Desmond and that a suitable reply might be as follows:-

"I have made suggestions to the British Government in the matters raised by Deputy Cosgrave and I am still awaiting their reply. Yesterday, at my request, the Minister for External Affairs visited the Falls Road area of Belfast; his intention was to lower tension in the area by demonstrating the Government's interest in the welfare of the people of the area and also to obtain confirmation at first hand of the information we had already received through various channels on what had recently happened there. He has also arranged to inform the Heads of Mission of all countries represented in Dublin of the Government's views on the present situation in the North. The Minister for External Affairs will also visit London tomorrow for further conversations."

Ángel M. Bann

Rúnaí