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Ronan10 Downing Street
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July 31, 1970

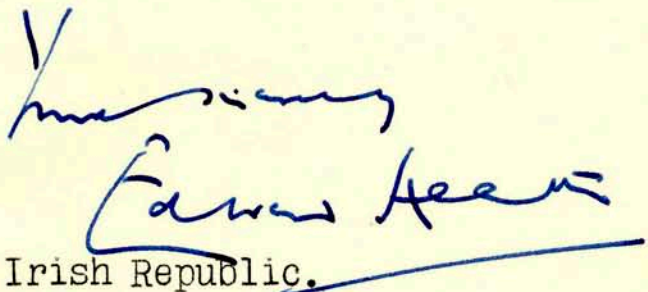
Dear Mr. Lynch.

I have deliberately been refraining from any public statements on your handling of affairs, but I should like you to know how much I have admired the courageous way in which you have been dealing with a difficult situation. I read your speech in the Dail on July 28 with great interest and I look forward to studying the text of your speech last night, I am most grateful to you for arranging for Dr. O'Sullivan to give us in advance the general lines of your speech and the thinking that lay behind it.

I was glad that you were able to commend the banning of parades for six months in Northern Ireland. The police have so far been pretty well received in the Bogside and the Falls, though there was trouble earlier this morning in a different part of Belfast. There is a good deal of talk of defying the ban, and

-2-

I need hardly say that all proper steps will be taken to deal with any situations that arise. • The main danger as far as the North is concerned at the moment is the political one. It has been the ban that has caused the immediate reaction on the part of the right wing Unionists, and their strong opposition to it has put the Northern Ireland Government under great pressure. In imposing this ban Major Chichester-Clark's Government have acted with great courage. For all the difficulties that the ban will cause, I am sure it was the wise thing to do, but the next few weeks are going to be a very trying period for the Northern Ireland Government. So I hope that for the time being we shall both be able to keep any public statements we have to make on Northern Ireland in a low key. I am sure that this will best serve the interests of all of us in settling these problems in a sensible way.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be "James Haughey". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Mr. Jack Lynch,
Prime Minister of the Irish Republic.