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Title: Notes prepared for a press conference to be given by Minister for Foreign Affairs Patrick Hillery after his meeting with CV Narasimhan, chef de cabinet of the secretary general of the United Nations, following the killing of civilians by British soldiers in Derry on 30 January 1972.

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Notes for Press Conference to be given by the Minister
for Foreign Affairs, Dr. P. J. Hillery, T. D. at the
United Nations

1. On 13th August, 1969 after the outbreak of violence on a major scale in Northern Ireland, the Taoiseach, in the course of an address to the nation said that the Irish Government could no longer stand by and see innocent people injured and perhaps worse. He announced that the British Government had been requested to apply immediately to the U.N. for the urgent despatch of a peace-keeping force to Northern Ireland. The Secretary General of the U.N. was informed of this request by the Irish Permanent Representative. The British Government rejected that request and also an alternative proposal for the establishment of a joint Irish-British peacekeeping force. The matter was then brought directly to the attention of the U.N. and I addressed the Security Council on 20th August 1969. We did not get what we wanted then because of British opposition but the situation has seriously deteriorated in the meantime.

2. Two and a half years later - and indeed over 230 violent deaths later - the Taoiseach addressed the nation (on 31st January, 1972) following the wanton killing of 13 unarmed civilians and the wounding of 16 others in Derry on 30th January by British troops. He referred to the shock of horror and indignation which passed through the entire length and breadth of the country. The Irish Government called for the immediate withdrawal of British troops from Derry and from other areas of the North where there is a high concentration of Catholic homes; for the cessation of harassment of the minority in the North; for an end to internment without trial - a disastrous measure introduced solely against the minority six months ago with the result that close on 800 people are now being held without charge or trial. The Irish Government also recalled the Irish Ambassador in London to show extreme concern about present British policies in Northern Ireland - a measure unprecedented in Ireland's relations with any country - and called for a declaration of Britain's intention to achieve a final settlement of the Irish question and the convocation of a conference for that purpose.

Besides having discussions here at the U.N. in New York I have been instructed by my Government to seek the support of friendly Governments and I will be doing that over the coming days and weeks.

The continuation of the crisis in Northern Ireland seriously aggravated by Sunday's mass killings in Derry, constitutes a grave threat to peace and the well-being of the whole people of the island of Ireland. To give you some idea of the depth of feeling in Ireland, Wednesday 2nd February which will be the

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day the funerals take place, has been proclaimed by the Irish Government as a day of national mourning.

5. In my conversation with Mr. Narisimhan I briefed him fully on events in Northern Ireland over the past $2\frac{1}{2}$ years, laying particular stress on the consequences of the recent disastrous policies of the British Government in Northern Ireland - one-sided internment, the dangerous and futile exercise of cratering cross-border roads, the constant harassment of Catholic areas by British troops culminating in the Derry killings on Sunday. I told him that these policies have completely alienated the minority Community both from the Stormont regime and the British Government and that they will now settle for nothing short of a system of government in the context of a united Ireland.