Copy note from the United Kingdom Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe, stating that a public emergency exists in Northern Ireland that warrants allowing the Northern Ireland government exercise powers of detention and internment.

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I am directed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to enclose copy of a Note dated 20 August 1971, addressed by the British Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe to the Secretary General of the Organization regarding the decision of the Government of Northern Ireland to exercise powers of detention and internment.

This Note was received under cover of a letter dated 25 August 1971 addressed to the Minister by the Deputy Secretary-General.
The United Kingdom Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe presents his compliments to the Secretary General of the Council and has the honour to refer to the communication of the 27th June, 1957, giving notice on behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom, for the purpose of Article 15 (3) of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, of the existence of a public emergency within the meaning of Article 15 (1) in a part of the United Kingdom, namely Northern Ireland, and of the bringing into operation therein of certain emergency powers, and also to the further communication of 25th September, 1969, in respect of serious civil disturbances which had recently occurred in various parts of Northern Ireland.

Over recent months in Northern Ireland there has been a series of acts of terrorism, including murders, attempted murders, maimings, bombings, fire-raising and acts of intimidation, and more recently violent civil disturbances. The Government of Northern Ireland has therefore found it necessary since 9th August for the protection of life and the security of property and to prevent outbreaks of public disorder, to exercise, to the extent strictly required by the exigencies of the situation, powers of detention and internment.

Copies of the relevant Regulations under the Civil Authorities (Special Powers) Act (Northern Ireland) 1922 are being sent to you separately. Particular attention is drawn to those provisions of Regulation 12 which provide for the establishment of an Advisory Committee in respect of persons who are the subject of an internment order.

The United Kingdom Permanent Representative avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary General the assurances of his highest consideration.

UNITED KINGDOM PERMANENT DELEGATION TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE, STRASBOURG

20 August 1971