Reference Code: 2002/8/483
Title: Statement issued by the Government Information Bureau on behalf of the Taoiseach, Jack Lynch, regarding the killing of five people by the British Army over the past weekend in Northern Ireland.

Creation Date(s): 25 October, 1971
Level of description: Item
Extent and medium: 1 page
Creator(s): Department of the Taoiseach
Access Conditions: Open
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25th October 1971

DRAFT

Statement issued by the Government Information Bureau
on behalf of the Taoiseach

This past week-end has seen the killing in Northern Ireland
of five more people by the British Army in circumstances
which suggest that the rule of law is not being observed by
the British Government in the area. Such activity is in
contravention of international conventions to which Britain
is a signatory; it is contrary to the achievement of
peace with justice for all inhabitants of the area and
is also contrary to the attempts I have made to introduce
into Anglo-Irish relations a movement towards a better
and more fruitful relationship among the peoples of
Ireland and Britain. All the dead and injured since
internment without trial was introduced are witnesses
to the folly of internment and the attempt to find
solutions solely by military means in a situation which
cries out for political action.

While the onus remains with the British Government to
undertake the necessary political action I join with
the elected leaders of the non-unionist community in
appealing for full adherence to a policy of passive
resistance to the military violence now being used to
repress and coerce. Real strength lies in determined
political organisation against which military means
cannot succeed. I pledge the full support of my
Government to such a policy.