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25th October 1971

DRAFTStatement 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 <sup>of</sup> 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.