Statement by Taoiseach Jack Lynch following his talks with Prime Minister Edward Heath and Northern Ireland Prime Minister Brian Faulkner at Chequers, emphasising Irish unity.

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Statement by An Taoiseach, Mr. J. Lynch T.D.,
at Dublin Airport on 26 September, 1971.

"It is very important that Mr. Heath and I should
meet again and, on this occasion, have with us Mr.
Faulkner".

Commenting on the scope of the discussions he
said:

"There are no limits to what we will talk about as
far as I am concerned. Irish unity is central to
the whole problem. A real lasting unity can be
achieved only through peaceful means and by agreement.
This will always be to the forefront in any discussions
I will have.

The duly elected Taoiseach no matter what Party he
represents speaks on the question of Irish Unity for
the vast majority of the Irish people North and South.
I have said before that it could be a long, slow and
sometimes a frustrating process. Dramatic results
cannot be expected from this meeting with Mr. Heath and
Mr. Faulkner but it is my fervent hope that the
discussions will help to find a way forward. One
of the most important tasks will be to find an
acceptable basis on which the Stormont Opposition leaders

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can be involved in future discussions. It is they who can speak with authority on behalf of those who elected them, especially when the matter under discussion is their role in Government and in public affairs in the North.

This is the way that violence, which I again unreservedly condemn, can be overcome.

Every person killed or maimed, apart from the personal tragedies involved for their families, be they non Unionist, Unionist or British, drives the communities further apart.

Violence is contrary to progress in the short term and puts further away the day on which Irishmen would agree to come together for the benefit of the whole nation."

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