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<b>Title:</b>	Memorandum by NS Ó Nualláin, Secretary of the Department of the Taoiseach, reporting a telephone call from Harold Black, Secretary to the Northern Ireland government, regarding the composition of the new government of Northern Ireland under Brian Faulkner.
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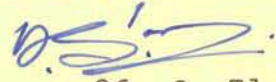
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Sir Harold Black, the Secretary to the Stormont Cabinet, telephoned me at my home at about midnight last night and said that his new Prime Minister, Mr. Brian Faulkner, had asked him to request me to convey a message on the following lines to the Taoiseach in connexion with the composition of the new Government of Northern Ireland, which had been announced at about 10 p.m. last night:-

The new Government should be looked on very much as a package. The inclusion in it of Mr. Harry West is, by no means, to be interpreted as a lurch to the Right - in fact, it <sup>re</sup>presents a devastating blow to the Craig-West axis, as it has separated West from Craig and brought West into the Government on the basis of his acceptance of the Government's policies of the reforms, of no-arming of the R.U.C. and of no-bringing-back of the B Specials. The appointment of Messrs. Robin Bailie and David Bleakley, both liberals, indicates a balancing of the Left with the Right; as regards Mr. Bleakley, the position is that, as he is a member neither of their House of Commons nor of their Senate, he cannot hold office, under their constitutional provisions, for more than six months, but they don't anticipate any difficulty about finding a way of extending the period of his eligibility for office beyond that period. The Prime Minister's attitude is one of goodwill towards us. He is anxious that the foregoing information should reach the Taoiseach as soon as possible, in case the Taoiseach might feel called on to make any public comment on the composition of the new Government of Northern Ireland.

I thanked Sir Harold for his message, which I said that I felt sure that the Taoiseach would appreciate.

Having failed to contact the Taoiseach at his home, I eventually contacted him at about 12.35 this morning at an Hotel at which I knew he was attending a function and conveyed to him the above message from the Prime Minister of Northern Ireland.

  
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