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**Title:** Text of a statement issued by the Government Information Bureau on behalf of the Taoiseach, Jack Lynch, concerning the initiative of Edward Heath, British Prime Minister, and his Government i.e. plans to prorogue the Stormont Parliament and to introduce Direct Rule on Northern Ireland from Westminster.

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24th March, 1972.

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Text of statement issued by the Government  
Information Bureau on behalf of Taoiseach.

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I regard the initiative of Mr. Heath and his Government as a step forward in seeking a lasting solution to the remaining problem in Anglo-Irish relations.

I ask all sections of the community, North and South to consider the proposals maturely and objectively so as to avoid further tragic suffering in Northern Ireland involving innocent people and to make it possible for all Irish men to find a new way forward towards a society in which peace, justice, understanding and friendship will prevail.

I have instructed the Irish Ambassador to London to return immediately to his post.