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Asked to comment on the Widgery Report into the events in Derry on 30th January the Taoiseach said he found it difficult to see how Lord Widgery reached the general conclusions he did even on the evidence set out in the report itself. In Dáil Eireann on February 10th he, the Taoiseach, had called for the setting up of an impartial international tribunal to investigate the Derry killings on January 30th. The Widgery report demonstrated the need for international examination of the activities of the British Army in Derry on that day and elsewhere in the North in recent years.

These matters are now the subject of an application under the European Convention of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

The main lesson to be drawn from the events in the North and the now numerous reports on them is that Britain must prepare to move, in conjunction with Ireland, towards a general settlement which would end permanently and peacefully the remaining problem in Anglo Irish relations.