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26th May 1972.

Text of statement issued by the Government Information Bureau on behalf of the Taoiseach, Mr. John Lynch, T.D.

The Government have today made a proclamation bringing Part V of the Offences Against the State Act (1939) into operation. This establishes a Special Criminal Court and it is the Government's intention to appoint three members of the judiciary to constitute the Court. Notice of the making of the proclamation appears in *Iris Cifigiúil* today.

The Government are satisfied that this step is necessary on the grounds that the ordinary Courts are inadequate at the present time to secure the effective administration of justice and the preservation of public peace and order.

The Act authorises the Government to make an Order scheduling the offences that may be tried by the Special Criminal Courts. Such an Order will be made in the near future. It will be for the Attorney General to decide in any particular case whether a person charged with a scheduled offence should be tried by the Special Criminal Court or by the ordinary Courts.

In addition, the Attorney General is entitled, on being satisfied as to certain matters, to have other cases not involving scheduled offences transferred to that Court. While the Special Criminal Court is authorised to make rules governing its own practice and procedure, the ordinary rules of evidence apply in proceedings before it. Specifically, the rules of evidence applicable are the same as those applicable in trials in the Central Criminal Court.

An appeal against conviction or sentence by the Special Criminal Court may be taken to the Court of Criminal Appeal.