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1 Lúnasa, 1972.

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The following statement has today been issued by the Government Information Bureau on behalf of the Taoiseach:-

The Government at a specially-convened meeting considered the current Situation in Northern Ireland.

The military operation in Northern Ireland has been presented by Mr. Whitelaw as a means to save lives and make political progress possible.

There can be no question of a return to the old political structures in the north which gave rise to so much violence and misery.

No opportunity must now be let pass to achieve political progress. A great onus rests on all of us, especially on the British Government, to achieve these ends and the situation must be approached with urgency.

Talks must be held quickly between the interested parties. For my part, I intend to act in every constitutional way open to me to work towards achieving a reasoned political solution.