Department of Foreign Affairs briefing document for the meeting at Chequers, England, between the Taoiseach, Jack Lynch, the British Prime Minister, Edward Heath, and the Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, Brian Faulkner. The document refers to the necessity for political changes in Northern Ireland to counter the strength of the IRA [Irish Republican Army].

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The IRA in the North

Internment has shown, rather the failure of internment has demonstrated, the potency of the IRA. The IRA, as an active phenomenon, cannot be defeated by the military forces at present in the field in the North. It can only be beaten by anti-unionist leaders who can separate the Catholic communities from the IRA. In order to preserve and strengthen their position there must be immediate and radical political changes in the North. Failure to face up to this will mean a continuation indefinitely of the IRA threat and all the consequences that may flow from that.