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<b>Reference Code:</b>	2003/17/30
<b>Title:</b>	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 details the views of the Irish Government on the Conservative Government's policies in Northern Ireland.
<b>Creation Date(s):</b>	September, 1971
<b>Level of description:</b>	Item
<b>Extent and medium:</b>	2 pages
<b>Creator(s):</b>	Department of Foreign Affairs
<b>Access Conditions:</b>	Open
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Conservative Government's Policies in Northern Ireland

Evidence of (a) lack of impartiality (b) appeasement of majority and (c) repression of minority

Note: The views of the Irish Government on almost every point listed below were expressed to the British Government - repeatedly in many cases.

1. Falls Road Curfew (July, 1970) - a blunder of major proportions.
2. Semi-Promotion of John Taylor (in August, 1970) at the sensitive Ministry of Home Affairs on resignation of Sir Robert Porter who commanded respect.
3. Premature replacement of Sir Arthur Young as head of the RUC in November 1970.
4. Half-hearted implementation of ban on parades against Orangemen in latter half of 1970.
5. Failure to administer the law impartially especially in cases resulting from riots. (The legal profession in the North was also disturbed about this).
6. Failure to carry out serious arms searches in Unionist areas.
7. Tolerating the legislation of reforms which were so watered down and distorted as to be acceptable to hard-line Unionists.
8. Failure to take action in obvious cases of incitement to hatred.
9. The decision to permit the formation of gun clubs - some composed wholly or in part of ex "B Specials".
10. Failure to withdraw the 102,000 licenced guns in the North (a figure which is twice as great as that for the South on a population basis).
11. Increased use of the Special Powers Acts including the making of new Orders thereunder notwithstanding the recommendations of Lord Hunt and the existence of a special committee to examine their repeal.
12. Resignation of Major Chichester Clark and his replacement by Mr. Brian Faulkner.
13. Composition of Mr. Faulkner's Cabinet (Harry West, Joe Burns, John Taylor etc.) and formation of New Security Unit under Mr. Faulkner.
14. Derry Shootings - failure to meet demands for official enquiry leading to withdrawal of Opposition from Stormont.
15. Lurgan meeting between Orange leaders and Faulkner plus half his Cabinet (It is believed that secret deal on Orange parades was made)
16. Post - Lurgan policy on Orange parades - failure of British Government to act decisively and impartially, including

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- failure to ban Apprentice Boys parade well in advance.
17. Large-scale secret rearming of RUC with pistols - a long-standing demand of the Unionist Right-Wing.
  18. The failure of the British Government to effect a loosening of the stranglehold of the Orange Order in the Stormont Government and Unionist Party.
  19. The complete lack of consultation with Opposition M.P.s before the appointment of minority representatives on public bodies.
  20. Introduction of internment - its one-side application and use against political opponents.
  21. Brutality of British soldiers against the minority.
  22. Absurd terms of reference of Committee and enquiry into allegations of brutality against British Army in further alienation of the aggrieved.