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BRITISH EMBASSY
GLENCAIRN
SANDYFORD
DUBLIN

8 September 1972

Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy presents its compliments to the Department of Foreign Affairs and has the honour to draw its attention to the following summary of border incidents involving violence initiated by IRA units based in the Republic, since 27 March. As up to 31 August 1972, there have been a further 109 incidents, bringing the total number of cross-border attacks to 307 since 9 August 1971.

Broken down into categories, the incidents are as follows:

- (1) Fire has been opened from the Republic 62 times (up to the imposition of Direct Rule on 26 March, 110 times).
- (2) On 17 occasions customs posts have been blown up or burned down. This includes Newry. (Up to 26 March, 40 times).
- (3) Other border buildings have been attacked 5 times (up to 26 March, 7 times).
- (4) Raiders have twice crossed the border to mount armed robberies and other attacks (up to 26 March, 11 times).
- (5) There have been 17 incidents of booby traps (up to 26 March, 15).
- (6) There has been one further case of kidnapping, ie Corporal Elliott (up to 26 March, 2).
- (7) Total deaths in the period 27 March to 31 August were 12, of which 3 were soldiers, 1 IRA, 1 Garda and 7 civilians, including those at Newry. Three IRA bombers at Newry are not included in this total.
- (8) The balance comprises miscellaneous acts of violence.

In April, May and June up to the cease-fire, incidents were running at about a score a month. They began again in mid-July at a lesser rate. August, with 31 incidents, was above the monthly average for the year beginning 9 August 1971.

Her Majesty's Government trusts that the Irish authorities appreciate the significance of this continuing activity. Despite greater co-operation from the Garda and the Irish Army, which Her Majesty's Government appreciates, the IRA still seems to be able to operate successfully, particularly in certain areas. Her Majesty's Government hopes that in the light of statements by the Irish Government about co-operation on the border it will spare no pains to ensure that everything possible is done to prevent a repetition of further incidents such as those described above.

Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Department of Foreign Affairs the assurances of its highest consideration.