

## NATIONAL ARCHIVES

### IRELAND



<b>Reference Code:</b>	2005/151/677
<b>Title:</b>	Petition received at the Department of the Taoiseach addressed to the Taoiseach, the Minister for Justice, the Minister for Defence and the Minister for Foreign Affairs by County Monaghan border residents protesting at an incursion by soldiers of the British Army on the Monaghan-Armagh border on 18 October 1975. Includes typescript copy letter of reply from the Private Secretary to the Taoiseach, dated 22 October 1975.
<b>Creation Date(s):</b>	October 1975
<b>Level of description:</b>	2 items
<b>Extent and medium:</b>	3 pages
<b>Creator(s):</b>	Department of the Taoiseach
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PETITION BY CO. MONAGHAN BORDER RESIDENTS

Longfield,  
Castleblayney,  
Co. Monaghan.

22 DFR 1975 20th October 1975

To Departments of  
An Taoiseach,  
Minister for Justice,  
Minister for Defence,  
and  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
DAIL EIREANN,  
DUBLIN  
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Re-British Army Incursion  
Monaghan/Armagh Frontier  
18th day of October 1975

Take note,

We the undersigned group of residents living on and owning property on the Irish Republic side of the County Monaghan/Armagh Frontier wish to declare our shock, horror, and anxiety over the blatant incursion perpetrated by a party of British soldiers on the above date, during which they carried arms and commandeered vehicles on the Eire side of the Border. They also molested a number of Irish Republic citizens during their incursion at Clarebane, near Castleblayney.

The facts of the incursion have already been reported to An Garda Siochana and we are particularly perturbed over the attempt made by the troops to apprehend persons on the Eire side of the Border, during which they forced a Mr. John Hanratty of Teer, using threats and undue physical force, to drive his van a distance of almost two miles into the Republic.

The British troops also terrorised a family living in the Republic as they searched their home at Maghernakill, near Castleblayney, causing particular hardship to a young wife and three children, as well as the husband, whose motor-car they also took away at gunpoint and subsequently damaged. These persons are Mr and Mrs Owen Brennan, and family, whose residence is more than 1½ miles from the incursion point.

A number of other residents in the Republic were also terrorised by the troops during their escapade and consequential claims for loss and inconvenience caused, must be lodged.

We hereby request that an immediate protest be lodged with the British authorities over the incident and an assurance obtained that a further gross violation of this kind will not be tolerated. Our concern has already been expressed in a telegram to the Taoiseach. We also trust that arrangements be made for compensation claims over the incursion to be met by the offending forces.

continued overleaf /-

PETITION BY CO. MONAGHAN BORDER RESIDENTS

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Finally, we appeal to the respective Departments to take all necessary steps to ensure that our lives and property are protected against the outlandish aggression which was witnessed by so many people on the above date.

Signed on behalf of the following Border residents

M *Elizabeth Colem*  
.....  
Mrs Elizabeth Coleman  
Secretary.

Counter-signed :

*Maureen G. Mahon, M.C.C. Borradon, Castleblaney*  
.....  
*Michael H. Maher, Toome, Castleblaney*  
.....  
*John Christie, Toome, Castleblaney*  
.....  
*Owen Devlin, Borrygarry, Castleblaney, Co. Monaghan*  
.....  
*Joseph Kelly, Longfield, Castleblaney*  
.....  
*Arthur Canille, M.C.C. Annisulla, C. Blaney*  
.....  
*May Mc Mahon, Borrygarry, C. Blaney*  
.....  
*William Moore, Drumree, Castleblaney*  
.....  
*Patrick McSherry, M.C.C. Bree, C. Blaney*  
.....  
*Owen Donaghy, Longfield, Castleblaney*  
.....  
*John Mc Linn, Borrygarry, C. Blaney*  
.....  
*James O'Neil, Borrygarry, Castleblaney*  
.....  
*Owen Brennan, Marnhill, Castleblaney*  
.....  
*Joseph O'Leary, Pearlandeweth*  
.....  
*Adam Armstrong, M.C.C. Drumleek North*  
.....

22nd October 1975

Private Secretary  
Minister for Justice

**Minister for Foreign Affairs,  
Minister for Defence.**

Dear Mrs. Coleman,

Transmitted please.

M. F. MURRAY

I wish to acknowledge the receipt of the petition signed by you and other County Monaghan Border residents regarding the recent incident involving the crossing of the Border in the Castleblayney area by British troops.

The Taoiseach has asked me to let you know in reply that he has been in touch with the Minister for Foreign Affairs about this matter who has advised him that within hours of the incident the matter was taken up with the British authorities and a full investigation is currently in progress. British authorities have expressed regret about the incursion. The investigation is continuing and other aspects of the incident particularly reports of intimidation of local people are being pursued within the British authorities.

Yours sincerely,

M. F. MURRAY

Private Secretary

Mrs. Elizabeth Coleman,  
Longfield,  
Castleblayney,  
Co. Monaghan.