

FORMAL MESSAGE TO MR. CAIRNCROSS OF THE HOME OFFICE
GIVEN TO HIM ON THE TELEPHONE AT 3.15 p.m. ON
14TH AUGUST, 1969

Mr. Cairncross was asked to alert his Ministers to the imminent possibility that a formal request might have to be made this afternoon for the assistance of troops in Londonderry. The formal grounds on which this request ^{would be} ~~was being~~ ^{were} made were being spelt out as follows:-

If troops are not called in the situation as we see it is likely to be -

- (1) a compelled retreat of the police from their present position in William Street to Victoria R.U.C. police station which they will have to defend if necessary with firearms; and
- (2) occupation of the centre of the city by a riotous mob with the prospect of arson and looting, extensive damage to property and injury to the populace.

MS