



# PRESS RELEASE

The following statement was issued by the Prime Minister of Northern Ireland (Major J D Chichester-Clark DL MP) on the morning of Tuesday, 7 July 1970, in reference to the visit to Belfast of Dr Patrick Hillery, Minister for External Affairs in the Irish Republic:

"I am astounded that the Foreign Minister of any state should show such a lack of courtesy as to visit Northern Ireland without reference to me or the Northern Ireland Government - the more so in the present very serious situation.

"I cannot regard such a visit as helpful and I deplore it.

"I am reserving further comment until I have more closely studied the circumstances surrounding the visit."

7 July 1970

NOTE TO EDITOR:

Already 'phoned to most City offices.