



NORTHERN IRELAND STATEMENT RELEASED 14.8.69

The Government of Northern Ireland has informed the U.K. Government that as a result of the severe and prolonged rioting in Londonderry it has no alternative but to ask for the assistance of the troops, at present stationed in Northern Ireland, to prevent a breakdown of law and order.

After three days and two nights of continuous duty, the R.U.C. find it necessary to fall back on their police stations, thus exposing the citizens of Londonderry to the prospect of looting and of danger to life.

The U.K. Government has received assessments of the situation from the Northern Ireland Government and the GOC N. Ireland and have agreed to this request in order to restore order in Londonderry with the greatest possible speed.

The GOC N. Ireland has been instructed to take all necessary steps, acting impartially between citizen and citizen, to restore law and order. Troops will be withdrawn as soon as this is accomplished. This is a limited operation and during it the troops will remain under the direct and exclusive control of the GOC who will continue to be responsible to the U.K. Government.

The Ireland Act 1949 affirms that neither Northern Ireland nor any part of it will in any event cease to be part of the United Kingdom without the consent of the Parliament of Northern Ireland and the United Kingdom Government reaffirms the pledges previously given that this will remain the position so long as the people of Northern Ireland wish.

The United Kingdom Government has ultimate responsibility for the protection of those who live in Northern Ireland when, as on this occasion, a breakdown of law and order has occurred.

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