

NORTHERN IRELAND STATEMENT RELEASED 15.8.69

The Government of Northern Ireland has asked the U.K. Government for the assistance of troops to restore law and order in Belfast.

The U.K. Government has acceded to this request on the same terms as similar assistance was provided in Londonderry last night.

The Home Secretary in authorising the use of troops on behalf of H.M. Government said that they were going to Belfast as friends of all the people in that city in order to ensure that, if humanly possible, there would be no further loss of life.

He has also sent to Northern Ireland this afternoon two senior police officers to observe the situation on his behalf and to report to him, and also to act as consultants to the Northern Ireland Government and the R.U.C.

They are:

Mr. Robert Mark, Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police.

Mr. Douglas Osmond, C.B.E., Chief Constable of Hampshire.