

MESSAGE NO 3 OF 30 JANUARY 1972

NO 10 TO CHEQUERS

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM LORD BRIDGES TO PRIME MINISTER

LONDONDERRY RIOT

LATEST CONFIRMED REPORTS RECEIVED IN MINISTRY OF DEFENCE ARE THAT ABOUT FIVE PEOPLE KILLED IN LONDONDERRY THIS AFTERNOON AND A FURTHER TWELVE IN HOSPITAL. THEY ARE NOT ABLE TO CONFIRM REPORT CARRIED BY AGENCIES THAT TWELVE WERE KILLED: THIS IS BASED ON A STATEMENT MADE BY SPOKESMAN FOR A LONDONDERRY HOSPITAL, WHO SAID THAT THE TWELVE HAD BEEN BROUGHT IN DEAD WITH GUNSHOT WOUNDS AND ALL WERE IN THEIR EARLY 20S.

ACCORDING TO THE MOD, TROOPS WERE FIRED ON BY SNIPERS NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE MARCH. THE ARMY RETURNED FIRE AT THOSE SHOOTING AT THEM, NOT INTO THE CROWD AS MISS DEVLIN SAYS.

IF ANY FURTHER REPORTS REACH THE MOD FROM ARMY UNIT COMMANDERS THIS EVENING, WE WILL TELEPRINT THE GIST TO YOU.

MESSAGE ENDS