

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES****IRELAND**

**Reference Code:** 2000/5/12

**Title:** Taoiseach's remarks on Derry incidents –  
Extract from speech made at Clonmel

**Creation Date(s):** 8 October, 1968

**Level of description:** Item

**Extent and medium:** 1 page

**Creator(s):** Department of Foreign Affairs

**Access Conditions:** Open

**Copyright:** National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

Taoiseach's remarks on Derry incidents -  
Extract from speech made at Clonmel  
8th October, 1968

"In commenting briefly at Kilkenny on Sunday on the incidents in Derry City I expressed the hope that the root causes of such demonstrations would soon be eliminated so that people of different religious and political persuasions and convictions would be able to live together in peace and harmony free to exercise and enjoy their lawful democratic rights. The people of Ireland know what these root causes are. I know them. The Northern Ireland Prime Minister, Captain O'Neill, knows them and the British Prime Minister, Mr. Wilson, knows them also. Partition is the first and foremost root cause. And Partition arose out of British policy. The methods necessary to maintain Partition against the wishes of the vast majority of the Irish people and local majorities in areas like Derry City, that is: gerrymandering discrimination in jobs and housing, suppression of free speech and the right of peaceful protest, could not be continued without the political and the huge financial support received from Britain.

I trust that the efforts of all men of goodwill, North and South, will be directed towards the creation of healthy and wholesome community relations in the Six Counties, not only to eliminate discrimination and bigotry and to establish the full and free exercise of democratic rights but to eliminate the root cause of dissension among Irishmen in the North - that is, the Partition of our country against the wishes of the overwhelming majority of the Irish people."