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Title: Notes of interview with Lord Chalfont, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, by K. Rush, Minister plenipotentiary, Embassy of Ireland to Great Britain, where the deployment of the B-Specials in Northern Ireland was discussed.

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E-A DUBLIN

SERIAL NO ~~58~~ 60.

IMMEDIATE FOR MR RUSH FROM RONAN

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT I JUST SPOKE OF ON THE TELEPHONE:

QUOTE

MY GOVERNMENT ARE PROFOUNDLY DISMAYED AT THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DECISION OF THE STORMONT GOVERNMENT TO REINFORCE THEIR REGULAR POLICE FORCE BY MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL CONSTABULARY.

AS IS WELL KNOWN THE "SPECIALS", AS THEY ARE CALLED IN THE NORTH OF IRELAND, ARE RECRUITED EXCLUSIVELY FROM ^{RE} ORANGE ORDER. THE VERY MENTION OF THE "SPECIALS" BRINGS BACK TO THE MINORITY VIVID RECOLLECTIONS OF THE POGROMS AND REPRESSION DURING WHICH HUNDREDS WERE KILLED, THEIR HOMES DESTROYED AND THOUSANDS HAD TO FLEE AS REFUGEES.

UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND ACT OF 1920, THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENT MUST CARRY THE ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE MINORITY IN THE NORTH. MY GOVERNMENT ARE CONVINCED THAT REPRESSION AND THE EMPLOYMENT OF A PARTISAN ARMED FORCE IS NO SOLUTION FOR THE PRESENT SITUATION, WHICH CAN ONLY BE REMEDIED BY THE GRANT TO ALL IN THE NORTH OF THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS. UNQUOTE.

SGR 7/1/68

5.40

Note of Interview with Lord Chalfont, Minister of State
at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on
8th January, 1969

1. Lord Chalfont's Private Secretary, Mr. Tait, escorted me into Lord Chalfont's room and remained during the interview taking notes.
2. First I thanked Lord Chalfont for receiving me at such short notice and mentioned that my representations would be verbal only. I said I had no piece of paper to leave with him.
3. Speaking quietly, slowly and without notes, I made the six points contained in Mr. Ronan's teleprinter message no. 60 of last evening, mentioning them in the same order and keeping closely to the actual text. I spoke in a tone of regret rather than recrimination, as instructed.
4. Lord Chalfont, in replying, pointed out first that while the Foreign and Commonwealth Office dealt with my Government, it was the Home Office, of course, which dealt with Northern Ireland. He would, therefore, convey to the Home Office the representations I had made to him.
5. He continued by saying that, while he did not wish to enter into a discussion of the substance of the matter, since it was the concern of the Home Office, he thought he should make just two points.
6. First he said it was certainly true that under the Government of Ireland Act, 1920, the British Government retained "supreme" authority ^{over} ~~for~~ Northern Ireland, but nevertheless (and this was his second point) the Stormont
/Government

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Government had acted entirely within their rights in taking the action they had taken.

7. I replied that, while not wishing to contest that point, I thought we could agree that all concerned with this problem would wish for an improvement rather than for a deterioration in the present situation and consequently my Government hoped that the British Government would use their good offices with Stormont along the lines I had indicated.

8. That ended the interview.

KR

(K. Rush)

8 January, 1969