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Title: Comment by An Taoiseach, Jack Lynch, on the resignation of Captain Terence O'Neill

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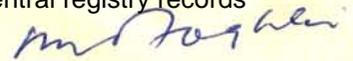
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Asked to comment on Captain O'Neill's decision, the Taoiseach said:-

Captain O'Neill was, I believe, sincere in his efforts to improve conditions in the Six-County area, to promote a spirit of toleration and understanding among all sections of the community and to encourage cooperation and good neighbourliness between North and South.

If Captain O'Neill's resignation were now to mean a turning back on the policies which he endeavoured to promote, the consequences could well prove to be tragic. My earnest hope, as I am sure it will be the hope of all who have the best interests of Ireland at heart, is that this will not prove to be so but that the reforms which are so vital and so urgent will be speedily implemented so that fundamental human rights and freedoms may be enjoyed by every citizen in the Six-County area, discrimination in every form ended and peace and harmony restored.

28 Aibreán, 1969.