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Following a request from Senator McGill that I meet a Nationalist Party deputation (the result of this request to be conveyed to Senator Lennon) I instructed Mr. O'Dowd to inform Mr. McAteer of this request and to say that I was willing to meet such a deputation and suggesting that Mr. McAteer might make arrangements. It was arranged that the deputation would come at 3 p.m. on Friday 15th. Mr. Austin ^uCorry and Mr. O'Reilly M.P., arrived at about 3.45 p.m. I saw them for about 20 minutes. I gave them an outline of recent Government decisions, and actions taken as a result of them, in relation to the situation in the North. Mr. ^uCorry, who was the main spokesman, told me that the situation in towns such as Dungannon and Coal Island was explosive and especially urged me that any announcements I would make in relation to what we were doing should high-light the word "protection" for the Catholic population. I gave them an indication of our attitude to the people of the North generally, that we regarded them all as Irishmen (with a view to long-term settlement of the national problem) and that he could rest assured that we were particularly anxious about the situation of the Catholic population. They appeared to approve of the actions that our Government had taken so far.

Immediately afterwards I saw Deputy Corish who had made a request for a meeting earlier in the day. I again outlined the developments as we knew them and indicated the decisions and actions that we had taken. We discussed the problem in a general way, during the course of which he repeated his request for the recall of the Dáil. I told him I would reconsider the matter as, in any event, it may be necessary in the light of certain decisions. Deputy Corish left after about 20 minutes.

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At that stage I was informed that Senator Lennon of Armagh had arrived and I agreed to see him for a short while. His main purpose of visiting me was to give an outline of what had occurred in Armagh the previous night when a young man had been killed. He said that he had attended a meeting called by the Civil Rights Association at the Town Hall and that afterwards many of those who had attended the meeting were standing around and his direct way to his home was blocked and he had to drive around an alternative route. As he was doing so he saw numbers of RUC including B Specials at different points. After he reached his home he heard some shots and he was informed that these shots were fired by a group of B Specials who approached in two unlighted cars behind a crowd of people, some of whom had recently left the C.R.A. meeting and others who were onlookers. They fired shots into the crowd, wounding one man seriously, another man less seriously (he was not sure of this) and another man fatally. He would produce affidavits which would bear out what he had told me. He asked that a protest be made by us in London about this incident. I told him that at that moment Dr. Hillery was probably in consultation with Lord Chalfont. I expected he would ring me after his meeting when I would have the opportunity of asking Dr. Hillery to convey the protest. Senator Lennon left at about 5.20.

J. LYNCH

16th August, 1969.