

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

IRELAND



Reference Code: 2000/6/658

Title: Memo from Taoiseach's department regarding information received about ongoing trouble in Northern Ireland

Creation Date(s): 18 August, 1969

Level of description: Item

Extent and medium: 1 page

Creator(s): Department of the Taoiseach

Access Conditions: Open

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

ROINN AN TAOISIGH

Uimhir.....

At about 5.30 p.m. on Saturday the 16th instant, I received separate telephone calls from Mr. Ivan Cooper, M.P. and Mr. P. Kennedy, M.P. Both said that the Catholic area of Ardoyne in Belfast was surrounded by Paisleyites and B Specials without any protection whatever. Unless British troops were moved in before night-fall, a massacre of the inhabitants of the area was inevitable. Shortly afterwards, the same information was conveyed to me by Mr. Brendan Halligan, General Secretary of the Labour Party in Dublin, who said that he had received the news from members of the Party - two Deputies and two Senators - who were on a fact-finding mission in Belfast. I immediately informed the Taoiseach who asked Mr. McCann Secretary of the Department of External Affairs (who was with the Taoiseach at the time) to convey the information to our Embassy in London. Mr. McCann telephoned Mr. Kevin Rushe, Minister Plenipotentiary and Chargé d'Affaires in London, who, at about 6.20 p.m., telephoned to say that, at 6.07 p.m., he had contacted the Home Office (who were most reluctant to listen to what he had to say, but agreed, under protest, to take the message), and that, at 6.15 p.m. he had conveyed the information to the Foreign Office. Mr. Rushe was given an assurance that his message would be conveyed without delay to Mr. Callaghan. I advised the Taoiseach and Mr. McCann accordingly.

and that
the inhabitants
were

18th August, 1969.

(6068)E18398E. 25,000. 10-61. F.P. G28.