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STATEMENT BY THE TAOISEACH

In connection with last night's statement purporting to come from the I.R.A., an illegal organisation, I wish to assert, on behalf of the Government and people of Ireland, that no group has any authority whatever to speak or act for the Irish people except the lawful Government of Ireland freely elected by the people.

The Government will not tolerate the usurpation of their powers by any group whatsoever. These powers of Government are exercisable only by, or on the authority of, the organs of the State established by the Constitution enacted by the Irish people themselves.

I wish also to condemn in the strongest possible manner the wanton destruction of property and looting and the lawless behaviour by a small minority which has taken place in Dublin and elsewhere in recent days. ^{This} ~~Those~~ irresponsible behaviour and criminal conduct can do nothing to help our brethren in the Six-County area in their present plight.

Such acts of senseless and absolute folly, engaged in by any group, at this time in particular, can only do irreparable harm to the nation and to the cause of justice and peace.

Government Information Bureau,
19th August, 1969