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19th August, 1971Statement issued by the Government Information Bureau
on behalf of the Taoiseach

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A telegram was sent today by the Taoiseach, Mr. John Lynch, T.D., to the meeting at Chequers between the British Prime Minister, Mr. Edward Heath, accompanied by senior British Ministers, and Mr. Brian Faulkner, Head of the Stormont Administration.

The events since the introduction of internment without trial on Monday, 9th August, clearly indicate the failure of internment and of current military operations as a solution to the problems of Northern Ireland. It must now be obvious to you that solutions require to be found through political means and should be based on the principle of immediate and full equality of treatment for everyone in Northern Ireland irrespective of political views or religion.

In the event of the continuation of existing policies of attempting military solutions I intend to support the policy of passive resistance now being pursued by the non-unionist population.

In the event of agreement to a policy of finding solutions by political means I am prepared to come to a meeting of all the interested parties designed to find ways and means of promoting the economic, social and political wellbeing of all the Irish people, North or South, without prejudice to the aspiration of the great majority of the Irish people to the reunification of Ireland.
