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*Extract from T's speech
in debate on 14/5/70
M*

At last week end, I should like to say that I regard the reception he got as being by no means extraordinary. Deputy Blaney is a man whose family has given great service to the country and he himself had given almost ~~some~~^a quarter of a century service to his people in Donegal and to his country. After the events of last week it was not unnatural that on his return home his own faithful and warm-hearted people in Donegal should have accorded him a reception. However, that does not in any way diminish what I have done or the reason for my decision.

During the course of the debate questions were asked about many things to which I would find it impossible to reply as I do not know the answers. There were allegations and rumours of all kinds; wild stories from magazines that did not indicate the source of their information and quotations from such journals as the United Irishman. Everybody knows that at the outbreak of violence last August quick decision had to be made by the Government. I was challenged as to what I meant about "not standing idly by" and I think I can justify the claim that we did not stand idly by. We made certain services available and I gave the reasons last week why we thought that necessary. We made representations to the British Government about the security of the area. We suggested that either they should call in the United Nations to ensure peace or agree to an Anglo-Irish force. We failed in our approach to the United Nations in regard to a peace-keeping force. We had not any great confidence that this could be done as we knew under the United Nations Charter the country to which the UN force would be assigned would have to seek such a force. We also knew that the United Nations would very likely regard, as they were entitled to do, the territory of Northern Ireland as part of the United Kingdom.

Even though it was not very acceptable to any of us, we ensured as far as we could that the British forces would maintain peace and protect all people in the North, particularly the minority. We have continued to insist on that protection, realising our own special difficulties. Members of the Labour Party have asked me several times

*extract from T's speech
in Seanad on 13/5/70
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seek new opportunities and to turn them to the advantage of Irish people working and living in Ireland. Where we had a depopulated economy, stagnant and inward-looking, we now have vigorous growth and a confident people. The transformation has not been the result of a happy accident but a careful analysis of our problems and of the determination, imagination and consistent effort employed in finding solutions for them.

The Fianna Fáil Government have looked to the areas where change is needed, to our agriculture, our industry, tourism and transport, to our education and manpower policies, to our investment needs and our social needs. In all these areas the Government, having ^{the} sought changes they ~~thought~~ saw necessary, they implemented those changes. We have planned all these changes and consistently applied the means to make our plans, achievements.

I do not deny there are still difficulties to be overcome. Our very progress has brought its own problems. 1969, although another year of progress, manifested many signs of danger, and these dangers are still with us. They are to be seen in sharply rising prices, in industrial strife, in the shortsighted pursuit of excessive increases in money incomes, in the falling off of our savings, in the weakening of our export competitiveness, and the unacceptable size of our current balance of payments deficit.

The problems posed are as great as any that have ~~be~~ faced us in the past, but we the Fianna Fáil Government are aware of them. We faced them with a stronger economy and the confidence born of progress. As well we have the confident knowledge that we have overcome similar problems in the past, and I have no doubt we shall overcome, too, those that now lie before us.

I do not want to go over the same ground again that I covered in replying to last week's debate. I outlined the investigation by me of the events that led up to that debate, and I ~~w~~outlined the reasons for the actions I took. Whatever further action requires to be taken will be taken by the appropriate authority. I assure the people in this part of our country of our vigilance to ensure that our territory will not

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13th May, 1970.

I think that is an ~~xxx~~ earnest of our determination in this respect, and an assurance that further attempts will not succeed.

We know the problems of the minority in the North but to turn a ~~x~~ blind eye on the terrible prospect of armed conflict in Northern Ireland, to facilitate or to condone in the slightest degree a situation that could lead to Irishmen shooting Irishmen would, in my opinion, not serve the minority in the North but on the contrary would be a tragedy for them and for their neighbours in the Six Counties and indeed in the entire country.

We have helped them as much as we could in the past. We have tried to do everything in ~~an~~ as practical a way as we could. We will use our influence to ensure that the forces needed for their protection, for the protection of the minority who have genuine fears, will be adequate for the purpose - that their rights as citizens will be fully protected and that the reforms necessary to ensure these rights will be implemented speedily and fully. We will continue to give every help in every legitimate and practicable way we can.

At the same time, this will not in any way diminish our desire to take the action that is conducive to the coming together of peoples of all faiths and persuasions in a re-unified Ireland, in a healthy democracy in which account will be taken of all political affiliations and religious beliefs.

On the basis then of our economic progress, of our concern for the citizens in the North. Of our determination to find solutions for partition by peaceful means, there is no reason for anything but confidence in the Fianna Fail Government. As I have said, there are problems ahead. We ~~x~~ are confident of our ability to tackle these problems and not only to tackle them but successfully to overcome them.

One of these will be the negotiations for entry to the European Community. Can anyone - I ask this question deliberately - ~~contemplate~~ contemplate the terrible delima that would face this country in this context if the only alternative to Fianna Fail Government - and the only alternative appears to be this - was Coalition? What a terrible