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Statement issued by the Government Information Bureau, on behalf of the Minister for Justice, in relation to Mr. Faulkner's accusations of Government tolerance of subversive organisations.

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Mr. Faulkner cannot excuse the shortcomings of his administration by attacking the Government here. The Government have taken effective steps to stamp out the activities of subversive organisations on this side of the border. Government policy is exemplified by the provisions of the Firearms Act, 1971, which increased substantially the penalties for the unlawful possession of military type firearms and ammunition. In the course of the debate on this measure I expressed the determination of the Government to put down the unauthorised use of firearms and especially the use of military type weapons. The Act puts beyond doubt that the very serious offence of being in possession of firearms or ammunition with the intention of endangering life or of causing serious injury to property is committed just as fully, whether the person or property is outside the State or within the jurisdiction. Over the past two years considerable quantities of arms, ammunition and explosives have been seized by the Gardaí. The border is and has been patrolled to prevent in every way possible the passage of arms and explosives. Since 1969 Garda patrols have been augmented by Army patrols. Earlier this week I directed that extra Gardaí and cars be sent to the border.

I do not accept that arms or explosives have gone across in any quantity. It is common knowledge that very few people from this side of the border have been taking part in the fighting this week. A constant effort is being maintained to ensure that military training is not carried out here by illegal organisations.
