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The following statement was issued by the Government Information Bureau to-day on behalf of the Department of Defence.

Reports reflecting on the loyalty of the Defence Forces have been published by certain news media.

These reports are wholly without foundation and, in some cases, are entirely malicious.

The loyalty of the Defence Forces is not in question.

The Government are fully appreciative of the duties of the Defence Forces in the present situation, which are of national importance and which are being carried out thoroughly and with dedication under difficult and trying circumstances.

18 August, 1971.

NB This was discussed by the Taoiseach with the Secretary of the Defence press unit being issued.

18.8.71

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