

NATIONAL ARCHIVES**IRELAND**

Reference Code: 2002/8/481

Title: Copy note from the United Kingdom
Permanent Representative to the Council of
Europe, stating that a public emergency exists
in Northern Ireland that warrants allowing the
Northern Ireland government exercise powers
of detention and internment.

Creation Date(s): 20 August, 1971

Level of description: Item

Extent and medium: 2 pages

Creator(s): Department of the Taoiseach

Access Conditions: Open

Copyright: National Archives, Ireland. May only be
reproduced with the written permission of the
Director of the National Archives.

S.18650^B9th September 1971.

The following statement has been issued by the Government Information Bureau on behalf of the Taoiseach:-

I have read with considerable interest Mr. Harold Wilson's 12-point plan for dealing with the situation in Northern Ireland. Certainly his proposals accord with the view I have frequently stated that the time is ripe for a re-examination of the Stormont structures as a means of ensuring that a permanent monopoly of power does not lie with one section only of the community. Mr. Wilson, it seems to me, has tackled this problem in a straight-forward manner and his proposals deserve to be studied in detail.

Mr. Wilson supports the establishment of an all-Ireland Council consisting of parliamentarians from Dublin and Belfast. If the functions of the Council were limited to debate it would lack prestige. I think that further consideration needs to be given to the question of whether functions, perhaps in the economic and social fields, could be given to such a Council.

I fully endorse Mr. Wilson's suggestions in regard to the withdrawal of firearms' licences and very strict control in the future over the private possession of firearms in the North.