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Statement by An Taoiseach, Mr. J. Lynch T.D.,
at Dublin Airport on 26 September, 1971.

"It is very important that Mr. Heath and I should meet again and, on this occasion, have with us Mr. Faulkner".

Commenting on the scope of the discussions he said:

"There are no limits to what we will talk about as far as I am concerned. Irish unity is central to the whole problem. A real lasting unity can be achieved only through peaceful means and by agreement. This will always be to the forefront in any discussions I will have.

The duly elected Taoiseach no matter what Party he represents speaks on the question of Irish Unity for the vast majority of the Irish people North and South. I have said before that it could be a long, slow and sometimes a frustrating process. Dramatic results cannot be expected from this meeting with Mr. Heath and Mr. Faulkner but it is my fervent hope that the discussions will help to find a way forward. One of the most important tasks will be to find an acceptable basis on which the Stormont Opposition leaders

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can be involved in future discussions. It is they who can speak with authority on behalf of those who elected them, especially when the matter under discussion is their role in Government and in public affairs in the North.

This is the way that violence, which I again unreservedly condemn, can be overcome.

Every person killed or maimed, apart from the personal tragedies involved for their families, be they non Unionist, Unionist or British, drives the communities further apart. Violence is contrary to progress in the short term and puts further away the day on which Irishmen would agree to come together for the benefit of the whole nation."

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