

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES****IRELAND**

**Reference Code:** 2002/8/78

**Title:** [?Draft statement by Taoiseach Jack Lynch] on the killing of two British soldiers in Belfast following the shooting dead of two civilians by the British Army in Derry on 8 July 1971.

**Creation Date(s):** 14 July, 1971

**Level of description:** Item

**Extent and medium:** 1 page

**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.

2 2 2

We should not overlook that two British soldiers have been killed in Belfast in the past 48 hours. Those who engage in so-called "reprisals" have lost all moral sense. They are taking advantage in the most cynical and destructive way of the natural grief and sorrow of the families of Seamus Cusack and George Desmond Beattie who gave us an example of Christian charity and fortitude which I hope will be remembered and balanced against the shame we should feel as a people for some of the things said to be done in our name. I extend our sympathy to the relatives and friends of the British soldiers just killed in Belfast in their tragic loss.

14th July 1971