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Text of statement issued in Cork on behalf of the Taoiseach John M. Lynch T.D., concerning the entry of the British Army into the No Go Areas (as reported in the Irish Times of 1st August 1972)

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"When it became obvious after my meeting in Millstreet last night that the British Army were about to remove the barricades I asked Dr. Hillery, who was with me in Millstreet and who had been keeping in touch with the British Ambassador over the past few days, to arrange a meeting at once for me. The meeting took place in the early hours of this morning in Cork.

It appears that by this time the army action was already under way. I asked for and received from the Ambassador an assurance that if Bogside and Creggan barricades were removed all U.D.A. barricades would be removed as well. I also asked for and received his assurance that every effort would be made to avoid injury to innocent people and that the minority would be protected.

"It was obvious that these barricades would have to be removed sometime. Since the British Government have decided to take them down now, I hope that the same sense of urgency will be applied in trying to remove the barricades of fear and hate that exist between the two communities in the North.

"I hope that the moderate people on both sides will consider the new situation calmly and will not permit themselves to be influenced or goaded into any precipitate action that could bring about a most serious and dangerous situation. If such a mature and calm approach is adopted, this new development could lead to greater understanding and co-operation all round and create a better atmosphere for political talks, which I urge should be held without delay."