

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES****IRELAND**

**Reference Code:** 2003/17/30

**Title:** Department of Foreign Affairs briefing document for the meeting at Chequers, England, between the Taoiseach, Jack Lynch, the British Prime Minister, Edward Heath, and the Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, Brian Faulkner. The document details the potential breakdown points from the perspective of the Taoiseach.

**Creation Date(s):** September, 1971

**Level of description:** Item

**Extent and medium:** 1 page

**Creator(s):** Department of Foreign Affairs

**Access Conditions:** Open

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

6

Breakdown Points

1. If Mr. Heath insists and goes on insisting that the IRA is the problem, which is nothing more than the perennial propaganda of the Unionist Party - the Taoiseach ~~will~~ <sup>may</sup> break on that issue alone.
2. If Mr. Heath refuses to give credence to the Taoiseach's main speech about the final inviolability of the present system of Government in the North: - The Taoiseach can break on this.
3. If Hume, Cooper etc. are forced by the Logue case on Monday morning next to refuse to recognise the court and are jailed accordingly: - The Taoiseach can break on this. Technically he can ask Mr. Heath to ask the Government to release Hume and colleagues plus Logue, without prejudice, and if Heath refuses to do this Mr. Lynch can walk out.
4. There would probably be a number of other points, within the limitations of the theses mentioned above, at which Mr. Lynch can ~~close~~ the meeting. These are difficult to foresee. The main point to be kept in mind at all times is that Mr. Heath is in considerable difficulty and that a walk out by the Taoiseach on any ground that may prove to be reasonable, whatever the consequences in the short-term might be, will destroy Mr. Heath in due time.