



PRESS RELEASE

The following statement was issued today by the Ministry of Home Affairs:-

The directions given by the Royal Ulster Constabulary in relation to the march held from Coalisland to Dungannon on Saturday last had the full knowledge and approval of the Minister of Home Affairs (Mr. William Craig, M.P.) who was satisfied that, were these directions not given, a breach of the peace and public disorder would have ensued.

That public order was kept was due to the civil rights march being re-routed, a step taken solely in the interests of law and order, and to the successful efforts of the police in maintaining a neutral zone between the marchers and a rival group of substantial proportions.

Had the organisers of the march been allowed to carry out their original intentions, there would have been a large scale riot with consequential injury to persons and damage to property.

Police intervention was based solely on their duty to keep the peace and not in any way on party or sectarian grounds.

26th August, 1968.