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CONCLUSIONS OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD AT STORMONT CASTLE
ON MONDAY, 9 AUGUST 1971, AT 10 30 AM

PRESENT: The Prime Minister
The Minister in the Senate
The Minister of Finance
The Minister of Health and Social Services
The Minister of Education
The Minister of Commerce
The Leader of the House of Commons and
Minister of State at the Ministry of
Development
The Minister of State at the Ministry of
Home Affairs

ALSO PRESENT: The Attorney-General

The Parliamentary Secretary, Prime Minister's Department
The Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health and
Social Services
The Assistant Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of
Finance

The Secretary to the Cabinet
The Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet
The Principal

SECURITY - INTRODUCTION OF INTERNMENT

The Prime Minister explained how in a deteriorating security situation with its damaging effects on the economy and in the absence of any other initiative which might be taken he had told the Home Secretary of his conclusion that the powers of detention and internment should be invoked. A meeting at which the Prime Minister had been accompanied by the GOC and the Chief Constable had taken place at Downing Street on the previous Thursday when the Northern Ireland situation was reviewed in discussions with the United Kingdom Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, the Foreign Secretary of State for Affairs and the Secretary of State for Defence. Introduction of internment would involve the United Kingdom in derogation of the European Convention on Human Rights and the matter was obviously one of concern to the United Kingdom Government but they had nevertheless accepted the need for the course proposed as a means of achieving the restoration of law and order. Subsequent developments had been swift and arrests of a number of persons had already been made at various places in Northern Ireland that morning.

The UDR would be mobilised for a period of 14 days.

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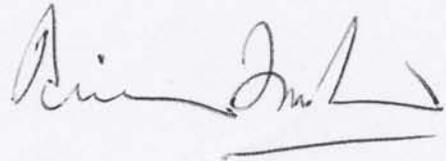
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So that the security forces might be released of any commitments in connection with parades at such a time an immediate ban would be imposed on all parades for a period of six months.

The Prime Minister further proposed that there should be an announcement that no additional licences for the formation of new Rifle Clubs would be granted for the time being.

In the course of discussion the Prime Minister said that if it should be deemed appropriate to ban public meetings a further Order could be made in due course.

Ministers expressed their full support for the Prime Minister in his handling of the situation and endorsed the decisions which had been taken.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'A. J. L.', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned in the right-hand side of the page, below the main body of text.

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