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Statement issued by the Government Information  
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During the past ten days 30 people have lost their lives by violence in Northern Ireland - culminating in the tragic death last night of Senator Barnhill. This latest atrocity has been used by Unionist politicians and others in an attempt to shift blame for the continuing tragedy in the North to the Irish Government and away from those directly responsible - the British Government and the Stormont administration.

On behalf of the Government I reject allegations that we are in any way responsible for the daily tragedy of Northern Ireland. I have repeatedly said and repeat again that the British Government must urgently make political decisions designed to find political solutions as the only means of obtaining peace with justice in the North. The campaign of violence there originated within the area and <sup>is sustained</sup> despite internment and the presence of over 22,000 military and 4,000 police personnel. Its causes - as confirmed by Cameron, Hunt and, most lately, Compton - lie in deprivation of civil and human rights.

In so far as the border is alleged to be a sanctuary I repeat the suggestion I made last September that the Irish and British Governments should jointly ask the U.N. Security Council to provide a U.N. Observer Group to operate on both sides in the border area.

13 Nollaig, 1971.