



PRESS RELEASE

The following statement was issued today by the Minister of Home Affairs, Captain the Rt. Hon. W. J. Long, J.P., M.P.:-

"As the Minister responsible for law and order in Northern Ireland, I deeply deplore the outbreak of violence in Maghera last night which can only result in an increase of tension throughout the whole community.

"Accordingly, I appeal to all concerned to avoid any repetition of last night's events and ask that the march of the People's Democracy be allowed to proceed peaceably without any further intervention by those who are opposed to it.

"Restraint by all parties is what is required and in particular residents in the areas through which the route of the march leads should refrain from acting in such a way that riot and civil disorder ensue.

"In so doing they will be contributing to the best interests of Northern Ireland and will be depriving the opponents of our country of further opportunity to besmirch its reputation both within and without."

3rd January, 1969.