

NATIONAL ARCHIVES**IRELAND**

Reference Code: 2001/6/323

Title: Statement by Taoiseach Jack Lynch regarding the imprisonment of Bernadette Devlin and the holding of Orange Order parades in Northern Ireland.

Creation Date(s): 28 June, 1970

Level of description: Item

Extent and medium: 1 page

Creator(s): Department of the Taoiseach

Access Conditions: Open

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

59361⁴

Statement Issued by An Taoiseach
Saturday, June 27 and Sunday, June 28, 1970.

The feelings of Miss Devlin's supporters at her imprisonment are understandable, but it is sad that the expression of these feelings and the holding of Orange parades have led to further violence, suffering and even death.

Apart from the personal tragedies involved, violent protests and provocative parades can only retard the attainment of social justice, the promotion of peace and brotherhood between Catholics and Protestants and the implementation of reforms.

It must be increasingly clear to everyone that these reforms which were guaranteed by the Downing Street Declaration of 19th August, 1969 must be implemented as a matter of urgency.

On behalf of the Government I wish to say how deeply concerned we are at the situation that has now developed and to express our regret at the tragic deaths that have occurred. We offer deep sympathy to those who have been bereaved.

On Friday, before the arrest of Miss Devlin, the Government conveyed to the British authorities our apprehension of the consequences of her imprisonment and of the holding of Orange parades.

In the circumstances that exist in the North at the present time, violence is a predictable consequence of protest meetings and of Orange marches. Surely the avoidance of human suffering and death should take precedence over dogged adherence to the holding of these traditional parades. With the tragic evidence we now have again, it is clear that a heavy burden of responsibility rests on those who organise them.

We, the Government, have been in continuous touch with London and with the situation in the North throughout Friday, Saturday and today.

It is vitally important that restraint be exercised on all sides even in the face of extreme provocation, and that people who have deep convictions on one side or the other and especially young people, will not permit themselves to be exploited by extremists whose only interest is the achievement of their own subversive objectives.

I ask our own people in the Republic not to worsen the position in any way by word or deed.

I intend that the Government will keep in touch and deal with the situation as will best serve the interests of all the Irish people.

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION BUREAU