

NATIONAL ARCHIVES**IRELAND**

Reference Code:	2002/8/77
Title:	Statement by Taoiseach Jack Lynch commenting on the new government of Northern Ireland under Brian Faulkner.
Creation Date(s):	23 March, 1971
Level of description:	Item
Extent and medium:	2 pages
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.

23rd March 1971

The following statement has been issued today by the
Government Information Bureau on behalf of the Taoiseach:

Asked to comment on Mr. Faulkner's appointment as Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, the Taoiseach, Mr. John Lynch, T.D., said -

I welcome the intention of the new Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, Mr. Brian Faulkner, to continue energetically the programme for progress in Northern Ireland in all its aspects. I note with particular satisfaction his decision to hold early talks with all shades of opinion in the community and to listen to what they have to say.

In this respect he supports - and I particularly draw the attention of the minority in the North to this - Mr. Heath's determination, endorsed by Mr. Wilson on behalf of the British Labour Party, that any Government of Stormont shall work to certain acceptable standards of behaviour expected of government in Britain.

I would also draw attention to Mr. Heath's further statements in ~~the~~ the British House of Commons yesterday that there will be no re-arming of the R. U. C., no return of the B Specials and that there will be consideration by the British Government of the question of the revocation of private gun licences.

This is clear and indisputable evidence that the Stormont Government and the British Government, which have the support of the Parliamentary oppositions in these matters, fully intend to obtain the implementation of the Downing Street Declaration which guarantees equality of treatment for all people in Northern Ireland without regard to political views or religion.

I would especially ask the minority in the North not to listen to those who would mislead them as to their future and to give their confidence to those of us who are committed to peaceful means for advancing their interests. My Government totally repudiate

- 2 -

any recourse to violence and we re-affirm our view that nothing is to be gained by it either within the North or in relation to the eventual unification of Ireland.

Mr. Faulkner's administration faces a difficult task in normalising the Northern society. Anything my Government can do to help in this will be done willingly and without pre-conditions. In this ^{respect} / I repeat the offers I recently made in regard to economic cooperation in matters which would be advantageous to both parts of Ireland.