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ROINN AN TAOISIGH
DEPARTMENT OF THE TAOISEACH

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 2
DUBLIN 2

23 December 1971

Dear Captain Brooke,

I have received your letter and enclosures of 11 December.

No one regrets more than I do the violence which, since August 1969, has caused more than 200 deaths, much injury and great damage to property.

As you know, it is my belief that the threat to the stability and social fabric of Northern Ireland is to be found in the denial of civil and human rights to a large minority of the population there since 1921. The underlying reason for this deprivation is the desire, which I consider to be anachronistic and unnecessary, of the leaders of the Northern majority to maintain their community separate from the rest of Ireland.

My Government's policy is directed to obtaining a new form of administration in Northern Ireland in which power and decision-making are equally shared between the two communities there during an interim period in which the Irish and British Governments, in association with the other interests concerned, will negotiate the bases of Irish unity, by agreement, in independence and in a harmonious relationship between Ireland and Britain. Those of us who participate in this endeavour will earn the gratitude of future generations of Irishmen and Irishwomen, and of all Irish traditions, and I suggest that you and your colleagues should consider this prospect objectively and with goodwill.

I am enclosing herewith a number of statements which I have made in which I have expressed these views.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN LYNCH,

Captain J. W. Brooke,
3 Glengall Street,
Belfast.