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Title: Letter from R McDonagh, Secretary in the Department of Foreign Affairs, to Heads of Diplomatic and career Consular Missions from Ireland, enclosing a short note on the subject of violence and its misrepresentation by the Unionist leadership in Northern Ireland.

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Seol aon fhreagra chun :-
(Address any reply to :-)

AN RÚNAÍ
(The Secretary)

faoin uimhir seo :-
(quoting :-)



Department of Foreign Affairs
an ROINN SHOICAI EACCRACA
Department of Foreign Affairs

baile áta cliat, 2.
Dublin, 2.

CONFIDENTIAL

3rd March 1972

To Heads of Diplomatic and career Consular Missions

I enclose herewith a short note on the subject of violence and Stormont misrepresentation thereon which the Minister has directed should be brought to your attention.

It is considered important at the present time that you press the points made in the note, as appropriate, in your contacts with official, press and other circles.

Handwritten signature
Rúnaí

- (1) Violence in the North of Ireland is the product of the policies pursued in the North in the interest of unionism and in disregard of the rights of the other community there.
- (2) The violence is indigenous to the area where the injustices exist and it is quite wrong to suggest that the present troubles emanate from the South. **The** vast majority of those interned in the North come from that area.
- (3) Violence begets violence. The policies of internment without trial, the brutal treatment of detainees, the foolish cratering of border roads, the Derry shootings - all these have sparked off further violence.
- (4) However much we may abhor the killings and the maimings from whatever quarter they have come, it is wrong to suggest, as Stormont repeatedly does, that the sole problem is the suppression of violence - that the choice is between violence and unionism.
- (5) The real choice is between the inevitable spread of violence, the direct consequence of the effort to continue a discredited unionism, and a meaningful political initiative by London to remedy the underlying injustices.
- (6) In the absence of this initiative all too long delayed the violence in the North has begun to spread to the South and even to Britain - with the tragic consequences we all know.
- (7) The latest and perhaps most sinister aspect of this situation is that it has given anti-EEC left-wing elements an opportunity to seek to exploit by violence for their own ends the natural yearnings of our people for unity and for fair treatment of all fellow-Irishmen.
- (8) It is in the interest of both Britain and Ireland - and indeed of our future partners in Europe - that this incipient cancer should be eradicated before it gets an opportunity of spreading; that we should recognise it for what it is and that Britain and Ireland should without further delay work realistically towards a just and peaceful solution.