

## NATIONAL ARCHIVES

### IRELAND



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Confidential

Implementation of Government's decisionsEXTERNAL AFFAIRSMinister

In accordance with (a) of the Government decision of 14th August, the Minister for External Affairs met on 15th August Lord Chalfont, Minister of State temporarily in charge of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Lord Stoneham, Minister of State at the Home Office. He requested the British Government to apply immediately to the UN for the urgent dispatch of a Peace-Keeping Force to the Six Counties of Northern Ireland. The British Government rejected that request. The Minister proposed alternatively that there should be a joint Anglo-Irish Peace-Keeping Force in the area. This proposal was likewise rejected by the British Government.

Dr. Hillery made two further suggestions to the British Government which were not rejected out of hand and may be under examination by them. These were intended to help to <sup>defuse</sup> ~~diffuse~~ the situation by means of a dramatic gesture of a kind which would allay the fears which had been aroused and concerned the introduction of immediate and significant requirements in the field of civil rights as well as the disarming and disbanding of the B Specials.

On the morning of 16th August, D/EA submitted a memorandum on the UN aspects for the information of the Government. After the Government meeting, the Minister left at 2.45 p.m. for New York in order to seek to have the sending of a UN Peace-Keeping Force to the North considered by the Security Council. A copy of the request to the President of the Security Council dated 17th August is attached. A meeting of the Security Council on the subject is not expected to take place before Tuesday, 19th August. The Minister and the Permanent Representative at New York are having consultations at present with U Thant, the President of the Security Council and the other members thereof.



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Diplomatic Activity

All missions received instructions on 15th August in accordance with (b) of the Government decision of 14th August.

(c) of the Government's decision was conveyed to the Permrep at New York on 15th August and has since been implemented by him and the Minister. To supplement this, the Ambassadors to Spain, Finland and France made representations in the capitals of those countries. The Ambassador at London was instructed to see the Pakistani Ambassador and the Ambassador at New Delhi to see the Nepalese Ambassador. The Minister is seeking an appointment with the US Secretary of State in Washington. A cable was prepared for the Taoiseach to President Kaunda of Zambia and was dispatched on 16th August. The Ambassador at Madrid was also instructed to see the Chinese Ambassador. In addition, action was taken in Dublin vis-a-vis the French, Spanish and US Ambassadors.

The Permrep's initial estimate was that we might receive 8 votes (Spain, Hungary, USSR, Pakistan, Nepal, Algeria, Senegal and Zambia) - 9 are required to place an item on the Security Council agenda, assuming that the double veto does not operate.

Publicity

The Information Section of D/EA, with the assistance of the GIB, have mounted a campaign for maximum publicity abroad in support of the Government's proposals. Government statements have been issued to our missions and the foreign press. Basic material on our case is being prepared and distributed. Foreign journalists are being briefed, arrangements are being made with Lensmen Ltd. to operate a wire-photo service to all parts of the world with concentrates on the Security Council countries. Similar arrangements have been made with RTE for the dispatch of audio-visual material and tapes on the widest possible basis abroad and through our missions.

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Tremendous publicity has already been received in the press and on radio-television. Much of this material is critical of the Stormont and London Governments. Some criticism has been directed towards troop movements here and, in some sections of the British press, to raising the matter at the UN. Any adverse criticism is being countered as far as possible e.g. by pointing out that troop movements were related to the provision of hospital facilities and that the call-up of the Reserve was intended for peace-keeping operations.

Department of External Affairs  
18 August 1969