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Desmond O'Malley responding to accusations
by Northern Ireland Prime Minister Brian
Faulkner and outlining Irish government efforts
to counter subversive organisations.

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Ministry of Justice
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The Minister for Justice has issued the following statement in relation to Mr.

Faulkner's accusations of Government tolerance of subversive organisations:

"Mr. Faulkner cannot excuse the shortcomings of his administration by attacking

a Government which has done all in its power, and with a great deal of success,

to stamp out the activities of subversive organisations on this side of the border.

Government policy is exemplified by the provisions of the ~~xxxxx~~ Firearms Act, 1971.

That Act increased substantially the penalties for the unlawful possession of

military type firearms and ammunition. Moreover, it put beyond any doubt that the

very serious offence of being in possession of firearms or ammunition with the

intention of endangering life or of causing serious injury to property is committed

where the person or property is outside the State just as fully as it is where

the person or property is within the jurisdiction. In the course of the debate

on this measure I expressed the determination of the Government to put down the

unauthorised use of firearms and especially the use of military type weapons.

Indeed, over the past two years considerable quantities of arms, ammunition and

explosives have been seized by the Gardaí. The border is and has been patrolled

to prevent arms and explosives crossing it. Since the 1969 trouble the Garda

patrols have been supplemented by military patrols. Early this week I directed

that extra Gardaí and cars be sent to the border. The Gardaí have specific orders

to prevent in every way possible as far as they can the passage of arms or explosives. I do not accept

that arms or explosives have gone across in any quantity though, of course, it is

physically impossible to seal the border completely.

In fact, it is common knowledge that only a few people from this side of the border have been taking part in the fighting this week.

A special effort is maintained at all times to ensure that military training is not carried out by illegal organisations and I am satisfied that the extent of such training is minimal.

Roinn Dlí agus Cirt.

13 Lúnasa 1971.