

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES****IRELAND**

**Reference Code:** 2002/8/481

**Title:** Copy note from the United Kingdom  
Permanent Representative to the Council of  
Europe, stating that a public emergency exists  
in Northern Ireland that warrants allowing the  
Northern Ireland government exercise powers  
of detention and internment.

**Creation Date(s):** 30 August, 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.

Telefón } ~~X01X78224~~  
 Telephone } 780822

Ion fhreagra chun:—  
 (Address any reply to:—)

AN RÚNAÍ  
 (The Secretary)

faoin uimhir seo:—  
 (quoting:—)



AN ROINN GNÓTAÍ EACTRAÍO  
 Department of Foreign Affairs

baile ársa cliaic, 2.  
 Dublin, 2.

*Rúnaí*

30 Lúnasa 1971.



An Rúnaí  
 Roinn an Taoisigh.

I am directed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to enclose copy of a Note dated 20 August 1971, addressed by the British Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe to the Secretary General of the Organization regarding the decision of the Government of Northern Ireland to exercise powers of detention and internment.

This Note was received under cover of a letter dated 25 August 1971 addressed to the Minister by the Deputy Secretary-General.

*M. J. [Signature]*  
 L Rúnaí

C O P YAnnex to letter J/Dir/3495  
of 25 August 1971

The United Kingdom Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe presents his compliments to the Secretary General of the Council and has the honour to refer to the communication of the 27th June, 1957, giving notice on behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom, for the purpose of Article 15 (3) of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, of the existence of a public emergency within the meaning of Article 15 (1) in a part of the United Kingdom, namely Northern Ireland, and of the bringing into operation therein of certain emergency powers, and also to the further communication of 25th September, 1969, in respect of serious civil disturbances which had recently occurred in various parts of Northern Ireland.

Over recent months in Northern Ireland there has been a series of acts of terrorism, including murders, attempted murders, maimings, bombings, fire-raising and acts of intimidation, and more recently violent civil disturbances. The Government of Northern Ireland has therefore found it necessary since 9th August for the protection of life and the security of property and to prevent outbreaks of public disorder, to exercise, to the extent strictly required by the exigencies of the situation, powers of detention and internment.

Copies of the relevant Regulations under the Civil Authorities (Special Powers) Act (Northern Ireland) 1922 are being sent to you separately. Particular attention is drawn to those provisions of Regulation 12 which provide for the establishment of an Advisory Committee in respect of persons who are the subject of an internment order.

The United Kingdom Permanent Representative avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary General the assurances of his highest consideration.

UNITED KINGDOM PERMANENT DELEGATION  
TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE,  
STRASBOURG

20 August 1971

D 45 725  
05.1