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*SECRET AND PERSONAL**Recd by Tavin
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TEXT OF A MESSAGE FROM MR HEATH TO MR LYNCH

"I am sending you this message to let you know that the Prime Minister of Northern Ireland will very shortly be announcing that, in the light of the latest assessment of the security situation in Northern Ireland and all other relevant factors, and after consultation with the British Government, the Northern Ireland Government has decided to activate its powers of internment. The Security Forces are accordingly arresting and detaining people suspected of responsibility for committing or abetting acts of terrorism and other breaches of the peace designed to lead to a breakdown of law and order in Northern Ireland.

He will at the same time announce that all marches and parades are banned until further notice. The ban will be in the first instance for six months, but it will be made clear that the need to extend and renew the ban for a further period will be considered in the light of the situation towards the end of the period.

There will be a separate announcement that all outstanding applications to start rifle clubs are being refused, and that no new applications will be considered.

You will understand why it is impossible to give notice of a decision to introduce internment before the operation to give effect to it. The Security Forces have in fact been carrying out such an operation this morning.

When Faulkner came to London last week, he told us that he had come to the conclusion that internment was now the right and indeed inevitable course. The latest series of acts of terrorism by the IRA and their recent declarations of their intention to continue and even escalate that campaign have made it essential to take this action however abhorrent, in order to prevent the undermining of economic and social stability in Northern Ireland. In purely military terms, seeking to contain this deteriorating situation by the means employed hitherto would have meant at best a long haul. Faulkner's judgement was that the consequences of that for the community would be worse than the consequences of what is now proposed.

That is his judgement of the situation, and of course the decision is his, though he has reached it after consultation with us. For our part, we made it clear that there could be no question of our accepting internment, and instructing our Forces to help to

implement it, if it was not accompanied by a complete ban on marches and parades of all kinds: and we have made clear our present view that that ban will need to remain in force for longer than six months, though the extension beyond six months remains formally open for discussion.

We realise that these decisions carry their dangers as well as their advantages for Northern Ireland: and I am well aware of their implications and dangers for you. Clearly the effectiveness of internment in Northern Ireland could have been increased if you had felt able to take similar measures on your side of the border.

+ // But I judged from our Ambassador's report of his recent talk with you that there was no prospect of that, and I could not therefore hold out this possibility as an inducement to Faulkner to hold his hand.

We have however made clear our view that the measures taken should not discriminate as between the different sections of the community, except as the facts of the situation make inevitable. The marches due in Derry on 12 August and in Belfast at the end of the month will not now take place. An Advisory Committee will be set up, to which any one who is interned will have the right to make representations.

I regret no less than you that these new measures have been found necessary. I hope that, in the light of what I have said, you will be able to react to them with understanding, even if with regret. There will be many who will call for violent action in response to these measures: a reminder from you that violence serves no purpose, and that internment is aimed against particular individuals who are avowedly working for a breakdown of law and order, would be invaluable. I also hope that, however you may feel obliged to react in public, you will in practice be able to keep up the pressure of harassment on the IRA south of the border, which will of course be reinforced from the North.

Our hope is that these measures can be strictly temporary, will serve to re-establish a situation in which the many social and other reforms that have been introduced and are still to come are recognised at their true value, and will not prejudice continuing progress on the task of building more harmonious inter-community relations in Northern Ireland.

And above all I hope that this will not be allowed to affect the good relationship which you and I have established, and the close relations between our two countries on so many matters of importance to us both:

and particularly on entry into the European Communities.

I am much looking forward to your visit in October, which will give us an opportunity to discuss the whole range of matters of interest to us both."

BRITISH EMBASSY

DUBLIN