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Stormont Castle, Belfast

19 January 1978

The following statement has been issued by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Rt Hon Roy Mason, MP:

I have not yet seen the full text of the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg on the allegations made by the Government of the Republic of Ireland relating principally to certain events which took place in Northern Ireland some six years ago. However, it is a matter of satisfaction to HMG that the Court has rejected the charge of torture; has agreed with the Commission that the introduction of detention did not go beyond what was strictly required, and that there was no discrimination in its use; and has rejected allegations that the Commission's other findings did not go far enough. I regard this as a chapter now closed.

I hope that the efforts of all concerned on both sides of the border can now be concentrated on the defeat of the common enemy - the men of violence who continue to maim and kill innocent people today.

NOTE: This statement was 'phoned to London and Belfast offices last night.