

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

IRELAND



Reference Code:	2008/148/740
Creation Date(s):	6 March 1978
Extent and medium:	1 page
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.

Issued by the Government Information Services,
Government Buildings,
Dublin, 2. Tel. (01) 767571. Telex 5800.

Ó Sheirbhíisí Eolais an Rialtais,
Tithe An Rialtais,
Baile Átha Cliath, 2. Tei (01) 767571. Telex 5800.

Statement by the Government Press Secretary,
Monday, March 6, 1978.

In the House of Commons this afternoon Mr. Mason made a number of references to the Border as a factor in Northern Ireland violence. The full text of his remarks is not yet available, but the reports reaching Dublin contain references to: (1) groups from the Republic making frequent and rapid forays into Northern Ireland; (2) home-made explosives reaching Northern Ireland from the Republic; (3) weapons reaching Northern Ireland via the Republic; (4) the possibility that people responsible for recent terrorist incidents including the La Mon massacre might now be sheltering in the Republic.

In recent years arrangements for security co-operation between the authorities in both parts of the country have been put on a most effective basis and the Government is satisfied that the structure for co-operation is efficient and effective.

A similar satisfaction was expressed by the British Prime Minister following his meeting with the Taoiseach last September. In the frequent communications at political and diplomatic level since then nothing has been said which would suggest the slightest inadequacy in the structure. Indeed, in response to our very recent queries we have been assured that the co-operation was proceeding satisfactorily.

An integral and vital part of the structure of co-operation is the passing to the Garda by the RUC of information which might suggest an involvement by persons in the Republic in specific incidents north of the Border. And there is under the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Act and other legislation a machinery where charges can be considered and brought where the evidence warrants it.

Not a shred of evidence to support Mr. Mason's allegations referred to above has been conveyed by the RUC or by anyone else in Northern Ireland, or Britain to any authority in Dublin.