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Ó Sheirbhí Eolais an Rialtais,
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The Taoiseach in a statement refers to a report in to-day's Irish Times which was quoted in the R.T.E. news feature "What it says in the Papers". The report referred to alleged suggestions that the Taoiseach is being called to London next week to answer for the Republic's culpability, not only for the Mountbatten murder but for the handling of security generally.

There is no question of the Taoiseach being called to London. When he paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister on 10 May last, a further substantive meeting was envisaged when Mrs. Thatcher and the Secretary for State had had time to familiarise themselves fully with the Northern Ireland situation. On Friday week last (24 August), the Taoiseach had preliminary enquiries made in London about the Prime Minister's availability for a possible meeting in October. On Thursday last (August 30) the Taoiseach and Mrs. Lynch received an invitation from the Lord Chamberlain on behalf of Buckingham Palace, to attend the funeral of Earl Mountbatten at Westminster Abbey which they immediately accepted. Shortly afterwards the British Ambassador conveyed a message from Mrs. Thatcher that if the Taoiseach proposed to attend the memorial service, she would be glad to meet him to discuss the tragic occurrence at Mullaghmore and its implications. The Taoiseach in his reply, in agreeing that a very early meeting was now desirable expressed the hope that the meeting would pave the way for worthwhile progress in the various closely related areas relevant to ending the violence in Ireland and Britain. It was agreed on both sides and has been confirmed subsequent to the press report in question that the meeting would be on this basis.

B1/8/79

1st September 1979.

Note

Statement was
drafted at meeting
in Taoiseach's room
on 1.9.1979 attended by
Messrs. Nally, Donohoe, Kavanagh, D.
Taoiseach, Ward, Donnelly,
D/Justice, Healy & O'Brien,
D/Defence and O'Higgins
D/Foreign Affairs
mk 1.9.1979.