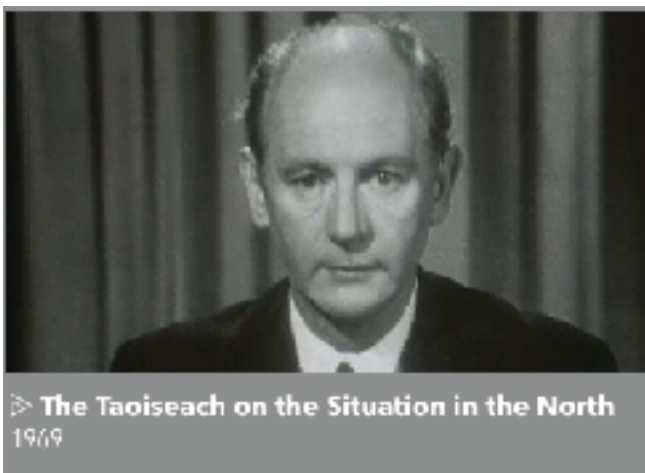


**Curriculum links:** Politics and society in Northern Ireland, 1949-1993 - The Republic responses to 'the Troubles'  
Government, economy and society in the Republic of Ireland, 1949-1989 - Anglo-Irish relations, 1949-89  
Key personality: Jack Lynch

### RTÉ Archives: The Taoiseach on the Situation in the North, 1969

Access the video clip [here](#).

On 13 August 1969, the taoiseach Jack Lynch made a landmark broadcast on RTÉ television in response to developing violence in Northern Ireland. In the speech he asked the British government to request that the United Nations send a peace-keeping force to the North.



#### Activity 1

Before watching the video clip, discuss the following questions in small groups

- How do you think Jack Lynch and members of his government felt about the violence that was occurring in the Bogside in Derry at that time?
- What do you think Jack Lynch could have done about this situation? What options were available to him?

#### Activity 2

Divide into small groups of 3-4 students. Watch the video clip and complete the following discussion questions in your small groups. Feedback your answers to the class.

1. In describing the current situation in Northern Ireland, Jack Lynch says that 'the spirit of reform and inter-communal co-operation has given way to the forces of sectarianism and prejudice'. Explain your understanding of this statement in your own words.

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2. Jack Lynch makes four key points in his broadcast:

- (i) That the Stormont government was no longer in control of the situation
- (ii) That the Irish government can no longer stand by and see innocent people injured or perhaps worse
- (iii) That the RUC was no longer accepted as an impartial police force

- (iv) That the deployment of British troops would not be acceptable nor likely to restore peaceful conditions in the long term

What do you think the reaction to these points would be among:

people living in the Republic of Ireland	
Catholics in the North	
Protestants in the North	
the British government	

In your opinion, which of the above points was the most provocative?

4. In the course of his speech, Jack Lynch describes three immediate actions that the Irish government has taken/will take. What are these actions? Do you think these actions would be effective?

Action 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Action 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Action 3: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Activity 3

#### Class debate

In the conclusion to his broadcast, Jack Lynch states that the reunification of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland is the 'only permanent solution to the problem'.

Do you agree with this statement? Discuss this statement with your classmates.