

Agrégation interne d'anglais

Session 2017

**Épreuve ESP
Explication d'un texte
extrait du programme**

**ESP
214**

Explication de texte

Faulkner, Brian, Speech in Stormont, Belfast, March 24, 1972.

Explication de faits de langue

Le candidat proposera une analyse linguistique des segments soulignés dans le texte.

Last night, at 10 Downing Street, I handed to Mr Heath a letter signed by all of those who were present at our Cabinet meeting, and endorsed by those members of the Government who were not present. It is quite brief and I will read it to you:

5 "Dear Prime Minister

You have just conveyed to us by telephone the decision of the United Kingdom Cabinet that all responsibilities of the Northern Ireland Government and Parliament in relation to law and order should be transferred to Westminster. You have also made it clear that even
10 this change is intended only to create a situation in which further radical changes, of a nature we believe to be unrealistic and unacceptable, will be discussed.

We now convey to you formally the unanimous view of the Cabinet of Northern Ireland that such a transfer is not justifiable and cannot be
15 supported or accepted by us. It would wholly undermine the powers, authority and standing of this Government without justification and for no clear advantage to those who are suffering in Northern Ireland today.

We wish to point out with a sense of the heavy responsibility involved that the imposition of this proposal, involving as it will the resignation
20 of the Government of Northern Ireland as a whole, may have the gravest consequences, the full extent of which cannot now be foreseen."

Mr Heath told us that, in view of our decision, he would propose to
25 announce at Westminster today a temporary suspension of our devolved institutions of Government, under which the Stormont Parliament would be prorogued and a Bill would be introduced to vest the powers of the Government of Northern Ireland, for the time being, in a Secretary of State. So that there would be no breach in the orderly government of the
30 country, he asked if we would be willing to remain in office for a few days until this legislation had become effective – a request which I felt it my duty to meet. Mr Heath has now made this statement at Westminster. It includes a proposal to nominate an Advisory Commission – a proposal which we oppose as basically undemocratic.

This is a serious and sad situation, reached after three years of the
35 most strenuous efforts to reform our society on a basis at once fair and realistic. I thought that by our actions and our attitude we had earned the right to the confidence and the support of the United Kingdom Government. I fear, too, that many people will draw a sinister and
40 depressing message from these events – that violence **can** pay; that violence does pay; that those who shout, lie, denigrate and even destroy

earn for themselves an attention that responsible conduct and honourable behaviour do not. They may ask – if Belfast is to bow to violence today – where will it be next year? Birmingham? Glasgow? London?

45 But I give this message to the people of Northern Ireland. We in the
Government have preferred to give up our offices rather than surrender
what we regard as a vital principle. We have had a grave disagreement
with the United Kingdom Government, but we have endeavoured to
50 conduct that disagreement with dignity, and in the way which will least
damage the Ulster we love and the United Kingdom as a whole. I ask all
our people – **concerned as they are bound to be** – also to have regard
to what is vital, and to behave always with dignity. We will continue to
assert and defend in other lawful ways the legitimate interests of the
60 great majority of Ulster people. And so I ask our people at this difficult
and trying time to remain calm and on no account to be led by unwise
agitation into any possible confrontation with the security forces, which
have been making such tremendous sacrifices on our behalf. We will work,
with total determination and utter firmness, but responsibly and under the
law, to ensure that the voice of the Ulster majority – which is not a
sectarian majority, but a majority of responsible people loyal to the Crown
– is heard loud and clear throughout the land.