

# The Early Days

1 In 1963 Captain Terence O' Neill became Prime Minister of Northern Ireland. He was born on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 1914 in Hyde Park, London.

2 He tried to build up the Northern Ireland economy and new industries were set up, although most of those were in unionist areas

3 Unlike most previous unionist leaders, O'Neill wanted to improve relationships with the republic, by visiting catholic schools and meeting with the Archbishop of Armagh.

4 In 1965, he invited the Taoiseach, Sean Lemass, to visit him at Stormont and he later paid a return visit to Lemass in Dublin.

5 O Neill's actions had two effects:

Northern Catholics were encouraged by the Prime Minister's actions and formed the "Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association" (NICRA).

The hard-line unionists were furious and called O'Neill's actions a "Betrayal of Ulster".

Led by the Reverend Ian Paisley, they called themselves the "Loyalists" because of their loyalty to Great Britain and the crown.