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Title: Memorandum to Taoiseach [Liam Cosgrave, TD] from Dermot Nally, Assistant Secretary, Department of the Taoiseach, alerting him to a forthcoming press conference at which the SDLP [Social Democratic Labour Party] will outline its position in the Inter-Party talks and announce its intention to disengage from the Constitutional Convention

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ROINN AN TAOISIGH

SEEN BY
Uimhir.....
Taoiseach

W. Nally

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w y date
10/9/75

NORTHERN IRELAND

10/9/75

Wk
11/9/75

Taoiseach

I understand from Mr. Donlon, Department of Foreign Affairs, that the SDLP intend to hold a press conference tomorrow morning at which they will set out their position in the Inter-Party talks. The keynote of their conference will be the sweet reasonableness they have displayed during these talks. Its basic purpose will be to contrast this attitude with the intransigence displayed by the Loyalists.

At the conference, the SDLP will say that there is no point in any further prolonged agony in relation to the Convention and that they will not be attending the Convention that afternoon. (This is not to say that they will be walking out of the Convention but simply that they will not be participating in the debate on that afternoon, or possibly at other debates. In particular, they wish to avoid getting involved in any Convention criticism of Rees - despite their poor opinion of him).

They will be asking that their proposals, as they were developed for the working parties which have been meeting until recently, should be incorporated by the Chairman of the Convention in his report on its proceedings. This may mean that they may or may not, as occasion requires, be attending at other sessions of the Convention. How they will act, will depend on developments as they arise.

The SDLP are letting us know this, at this stage, as a matter of courtesy, for information. I do not think that comment or other action by us on their position is called for.

[Handwritten signature]

10th September 1975.

M. Kinnear
11/9