

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

## IRELAND



<b>Reference Code:</b>	2009/135/723
<b>Creation Date(s):</b>	18 December 1979
<b>Extent and medium:</b>	1 page
<b>Creator(s):</b>	Department of the Taoiseach
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# ROINN AN TAOISIGH

Uimhir.....

## NORTHERN IRELAND

Meeting between President Carter and  
Mrs. Thatcher.

It is understood that the main Northern Ireland topic which Mrs. Thatcher raised with President Carter was the American embargo on arms sales to the R.U.C. President Carter said that this was largely due to Speaker O'Neill and suggested that Mrs. Thatcher raise the issue with him when they met.

When Mrs. Thatcher did meet the Speaker she did not mention the subject - presumably on the assumption that if she did she would receive a lecture which she was in no mood to listen to.

The three subjects which she discussed at the meeting she had with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee were:-

- (1) Iran
- (2) Rhodesia and
- (3) Northern Ireland.

On Northern Ireland she said that she knew that it was difficult for the Americans to appreciate the British feeling that Northern Ireland was not a matter of foreign policy but was essentially of domestic British concern. She said that she had excellent understandings on security with the former Taoiseach and looked forward to a continuation of these with his successor. She made a brief mention of the conference on Northern Ireland, due to be held with the parties there in January. She said also that the British would not stand in the way of Irish unity if a majority of the people in Northern Ireland supported the idea.

No question was raised on her Northern comments.

*su*

18/12/1979.

Taoiseach,

You may wish to see, please.

*sh.*

18/12/1979.

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*5*  
*24/12*