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Meeting between Taoiseach and British Prime Minister

COMMUNIQUE

1. The Taoiseach, Mr. Charles J. Haughey, T.D., today met the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher, M.P., in Dublin Castle. The Taoiseach was accompanied by Mr. Brian Lenihan, T.D., Minister for Foreign Affairs and by Mr. Michael O'Kennedy, T.D., Minister for Finance. The Prime Minister was accompanied by the Right Honourable The Lord Carrington, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the Right Honourable Sir Geoffrey Howe, M.P., Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Right Honourable Humphrey Atkins, M.P., Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.
2. The meeting, which was the first of those on which the Taoiseach and the Prime Minister agreed when they met in London on 21 May, covered a range of international issues, and the future development of the European Community, including the budget, the Common Agricultural Policy, E.M.S., and fisheries, as well as other matters

of concern to both countries.

3. The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister noted with satisfaction the useful exchanges at Ministerial and official level since their last meeting, leading to new and closer co-operation in energy, transport, communications, cross-border economic development and security. x They agreed that further improvements in these and other fields should be pursued.

4. The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister agreed that the economic, social and political interests of the peoples of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic are inextricably linked, but that the full development of these links has been put under strain by division and dissent in Northern Ireland. In that context, they accepted the need to bring forward policies and proposals to achieve peace, reconciliation and stability; and to improve relations between the peoples of the two countries.

5. They considered that the best prospect of attaining these objectives was the further development of the unique relationship between the two countries.

6. They accordingly decided to devote their next meeting in London during the coming year to special consideration of the totality of relationships within these islands. For this purpose they have commissioned joint studies,

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covering a range of issues including possible new institutional structures, citizenship rights, security matters, economic co-operation and measures to encourage mutual understanding.

7. The Taoiseach and Prime Minister recalled the statement issued on behalf of their Governments on 4th December about the situation in the H-Blocks and reiterated the hope that the statement made by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on 4th December would provide the basis on which the issues could be resolved.
8. The discussions were regarded by both sides as extremely constructive and significant.

8th December, 1980.