

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

## IRELAND



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OIFIG AN TAOISIGH

10 Deireadh Fomhair 1985

Memorandum for the Government

Anglo-Irish Negotiations

✓ 1. The Taoiseach wishes to inform the Government of the present state of Anglo-Irish negotiations and to seek the approval of the Government for the continuation of these negotiations with a view to holding an Anglo-Irish Summit later, if the substance of an Agreement has been secured on terms satisfactory to the Government.

2. The Tanaiste and the Minister for Foreign Affairs have reported to the Government on their talks on 7 October with the British Foreign Secretary and the British Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

3. The present Memorandum constitutes, under the headings of the main issues involved, an account of the negotiating session between officials which followed the Ministerial meeting.

Communique

4. The draft text of the Communique was substantially revised to take account of the Irish Government's concern (Government decision of 19 September 1985) to ensure that the British side understand and accept that the Irish Government could not accede to the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism until substantial expression is forthcoming to the agreed aim of ensuring that there is public confidence in the administration of justice.

5. The latest version of the draft Communiqué is attached. It will be noted that the relevant sections (Paras. 7 and 8) are now as follows:

"7. The two Governments envisage that the meetings and agenda of the [Commission] will not normally be announced. But they wish it to be known that, at its first meeting, the [Commission] will consider its future programme of work in all the fields - political, security, legal, economic, social and cultural - which come within its competence. It will concentrate in the first instance on:

- relations between the security forces and the minority community in Northern Ireland;
- seeking measures which would give substantial expression to the aim of ensuring that there is public confidence in the administration of justice; and
- ways of improving security cooperation between the two Governments.

"In the interests of all the people of Northern Ireland the two sides look for early progress in these matters.

"8. Against this background, the Taoiseach said that it was the intention of his Government to accede as soon as possible to the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism."

It is the view of the Taoiseach that the position of the Government is reinforced by the link between accession to the Convention and progress being seen to be made, not alone on issues involved in the administration of justice, but also in relations between the security forces and the minority in Northern Ireland.

Ministerial Commission and Secretariat

7. As agreed between Ministers in London on 7 October it was confirmed by a reference at the end of Article 3 of the draft Agreement that the Secretariat will be subsidiary to the Commission. Officials will in the coming days review in Belfast possible office and residential accommodation for the Irish component of the Secretariat.

Draft Agreement

8. The Irish side secured acceptance to important drafting desiderata in Articles 1 and 2. The Irish side agreed to a number of stylistic changes at the request of the British side and took note of a request to add the words "and decisions" in Article 2. It was confirmed that this change is requested by the Prime Minister personally. It presents some presentational disadvantages but does not affect substance. Copy of the latest version of the draft is attached.

Devolution

9. As confirmed to Ministers it was clarified that press speculation about a possible British "Green Paper" on devolution to accompany an Agreement was without foundation.

Title of Draft Agreement

10. An Irish suggestion that the proposed Agreement be known as the "Anglo-Irish Agreement 1985" was accepted.

Press Summary

11. A revised version of a draft press summary of the draft Agreement was completed. Copy is attached.

British View of Security/Political Situation

12. The British side indicated that they expected the extremists on the nationalist side not to set up a specific campaign of violence to bring down an Agreement. They expected considerable political objection on the unionist side but they are trying to divide the O.U.P. from the D.U.P. Alliance will support. They do not believe that Loyalist extremists have the capacity to mount a sustained campaign of violence but they accept that they might mount sporadic attacks on the minority in the North and some targets in the South. The British have made contingency plans to deal with a possible strike (which they would not expect to materialise) and specifically to keep the energy system operating.

Further Work

13. Work is proceeding between officials on drafting language acceptable to both sides for use in public in the event of an agreement. It is expected that a first common draft (which may include different texts to be used by each side in some cases) will be completed within a week. Work is also beginning to find legal terms to establish the International Fund. Further discussion will take place on the modalities of implementation.

Decision Sought

14. The Taoiseach wishes to secure the approval of the Government for the continuation of Anglo-Irish negotiations with a view to holding an Anglo-Irish Summit later, if the substance of an Agreement has been secured in terms satisfactory to the Government.