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Secret documents shed light on Anglo-Irish Agreement

Story by UTV Staff, Belfast

They've been released in a collaboration between PRONI and Ulster University's Conflict Archive on the INternet (CAIN) project.

More than 230 documents from 1986 have been added to the CAIN website as part of ongoing work between Ulster University and the Public Record Office (PRONI).

The documents illustrate the campaign among Unionists against the Anglo-Irish Agreement and provide an insight into the Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental Conference, where ongoing political and security matters were discussed between representatives of the British and Irish governments.

NI Culture Minister Carál Ní Chuilín has welcomed the documents' publication.

She said: "I remain committed to the disclosure of information about the conflict. It is essential that people have the opportunity to view records for themselves from our recent past.

"This additional material covers a wide range of records relating to 1986 and will let people uncover the details behind the headlines of that year. This material brings to more than 1,500 the number of

PRONI records on the CAIN initiative.

“The fact that the records have been digitised and are freely available online highlights how technology is being used to improve access to these important historical documents.”

Dr Brendan Lynn, CAIN Deputy Director, added: “CAIN is very pleased to have been able to continue our cooperation with PRONI and to update the existing section with material dealing with the year 1986.

“The information is easily available and free of charge. We believe it will be of great use to students, researchers, teachers and lecturers or to anyone with an interest in the political and social history of Northern Ireland.”

The newly released information can be seen by clicking on the link below.