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Ministry of Finance, Northern Ireland on 'North-  
South Relations', by T.K. Whitaker,  
Department of Finance.

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North-South Relations

Mr. Cecil Bateman, Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Northern Ireland, came to see me on Friday, 28 May, 1965.

His visit was of a 'pro forma' kind, as he had no special problem to discuss. We reviewed the 'state of play' for each of the items on the list of possibilities for co-operation and consultation which the Taoiseach had sent Captain O'Neill on 3 February, 1965.

The only items on which a particular comment need be made are:

1. General Economic Matters. Mr. Bateman suggested that the settling-in process of the Northern Economic Council had not yet gone far enough to enable a meeting with our NIEC to be arranged. He counselled a slow approach on this front.

3. Administrative Problems

Mr. Bateman welcomed the suggestions for increased contact with our Training and O and M Sections. As regards I.P.A. courses, he doubted whether these would be of general interest to N.I. Civil Servants, who have access to British Government training facilities, but he would be glad to be kept informed of the Institute's programme generally, and of any courses in special techniques.

Mr. Bateman mentioned the interest of the Trustees of the Ulster Museum and the officials of the N.I. Public Record Office in establishing contact with their counterparts here to discuss

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possibilities of exchange (and "repatriation") of some exhibits and records.

We agreed to meet again, about November next, for a similar review of progress and thereafter at half-yearly intervals.

Mr. Bateman was introduced to the Minister for Finance and, with the Assistant Secretaries, I took him to lunch. I also showed him over Leinster House and brought him to the National Gallery, where we were received by the Director, Mr. James White, who conducted Mr. Bateman on a tour of the paintings.

*Mr. Whiteaker*  
*1 June 1965*