

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

IRELAND



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Summary of Taoiseach's Ard-Fheis Remarks on
Northern Ireland

Analysis

- urgency of the situation - Government's first political priority
- danger that situation might deteriorate beyond recovery
- artificial nature of failed Northern Ireland entity

Security

- supremacy of law
- reject any attempt to usurp functions of state

Conference

- any progress on civil rights/and an impartial security apparatus a good thing and equality for all citizens
- could not provide a conclusive settlement

Long-term Solution

- all attempts at coercion rejected
- two sovereign Governments must work together to find a lasting solution
- British Government declaration of their interest in encouraging the unity of Ireland by agreement and in peace would open the way to an entirely new situation with peace an attainable reality
- all traditions must be respected
- current inhibitions to economic and political cooperation would be removed
- British goodwill necessary toward a new free and open arrangement in which Irishmen would manage the affairs of the whole of Ireland