

SECRET

EXMEMO

89/74

EXMEM
89

SUNNINGDALE AGREEMENT

PROGRESS OF EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM BY THE SECRETARY TO THE EXECUTIVE

1. The Sub-Committee have met again, as requested by the Executive, to consider whether an agreed definition of the Council of Ministers' role can be recommended.
2. They have agreed to recommend to their colleagues the following form of words:-

"The Northern Ireland Executive and the Irish Government agree that the Council of Ministers will provide the forum for consultation, co-operation and co-ordination of action between the Executive and the Government in relation to the economic and social matters below, which have been identified in accordance with the following criteria set out in paragraph of the Sunningdale Agreed Communique:

- (1) to achieve the best utilisation of scarce skills, expertise and resources;
- (2) to avoid, in the interests of economy and efficiency, unnecessary duplication of effort, and
- (3) to ensure complementary rather than competitive effort where this is to the advantage of agriculture, commerce and industry"

3. There would then follow a list of agreed areas of co-operation, to be selected by the Executive on the basis of the Joint Report of Officials. This Report classifies matters into the three categories of executive action, executive decision, and Council studies and consultation. The list attached as an Annex merely describes the type of co-operation suggested, without identifying the precise role of the Council.

K.P. Bloomfield

K P BLOOMFIELD
Office of the Executive

SECRET

15 May 1974

SECRET

ELECTRICITY GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION

To concert policy and planning for future generating capacity and development of interconnections.

TOURISM

To promote the tourist amenities of the island as a whole in the British and Irish markets through a joint approach by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and Bord Failte, using as a means a joint committee representative of these two tourist authorities.

To promote, as far as possible, the tourist amenities of the island as a whole in overseas markets.

To co-operate, and where appropriate secure a joint approach to the servicing of tourist traffic.

To co-operate, and where appropriate secure a joint approach to research and planning in relation to tourism.

CARLINGFORD LOUGH

To achieve a joint approach to the management and development of Carlingford Lough through a jointly appointed and reconstituted Carlingford Lough Commission.

SECRET

LOUGH FOYLE

To achieve a joint approach to the [harbours on] [navigation of] Lough Foyle through a jointly appointed Foyle authority.

SPECIFIC JOINT INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS

To initiate all-Ireland and cross-border industry studies with a view to identifying projects which can be carried out or supported.

FUTURE ENERGY NEEDS AND RESOURCES

To undertake and develop, as a basis for future policy, continuing studies of the future energy needs and resources of Ireland as a whole.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

To undertake joint surveys in cross-Border areas. To study the feasibility and timing of a common geological service.

To co-operate and exchange information in scientific areas.

TRADE PROMOTION

To develop a joint programme of action for trade promotion to the benefit of Ireland as a whole to be drawn up by the relevant agencies in Northern Ireland and the Republic.

To study the feasibility of more extensive co-operation between Northern Ireland and the Republic, including the possibility of a common trade promotion organisation.

DRAINAGE

To secure co-ordination of drainage programmes and works in cross-Border areas.

PLANT AND ANIMAL HEALTH

To secure continuing co-operation in keeping the island free from Epizootic diseases.

To secure agreed common lines of policy for dealing with any outbreak of an Epizootic disease or of any animal disease endemic to the island, but capable of being eradicated.

SECRET

PLANT AND ANIMAL HEALTH (continued)

To extend consultation on control of other domestic diseases; on meat inspection, particularly for the domestic market; on veterinary laboratories servicing practitioners etc; on animal and poultry health schemes; on general control of veterinary medicines including antibiotics, vaccines etc on animal welfare; on research; on animal health aspects of artificial insemination.

To extend co-operation between the two Plant Health Services, with particular reference to protecting the export of seed potatoes.

HORSE-RACING AND BLOODSTOCK

To take common action for the benefit of horse-racing and bloodstock throughout Ireland.

PHYSICAL STRATEGY/REGIONAL PLANNING

To intensify, as far as possible, co-operation between the planning authorities in the Republic and in Northern Ireland.

To initiate advisory physical planning studies.

To exchange information on existing or draft physical strategies, regional plans and development plans, as well as on legislative and administrative measures necessary to carry them out.

To initiate special procedures for dealing with planning applications and projects of cross-Border significance.

To secure, as far as practicable, the harmonisation of planning techniques.

To take steps to keep secure the adequate supply and training of professional planners.

CONSERVATION

To establish a joint official committee, with a view to facilitating a common approach to nature reserves and wildlife.

SECRET

MARINE RESOURCES

To take common action for the conservation of herring, salmon and whiting stocks.

INLAND WATERWAYS

To undertake a common study of the feasibility of restoration and development of the Ballinamore/Ballyconnell Council.

To establish a common advisory body to secure harmonisation of by-laws governing inland waterways for navigation and recreation (except fishing).

RAILWAYS

To devise a common policy for cross-Border railway operations and developments on a collaborative basis, through a joint committee of the Departments concerned.

ROADS AND BRIDGES

To develop a co-ordinated action programme for the Newry-Dundalk Motor Route.

To designate from time to time cross-Border events of regional significance, and to determine priorities, programmes and standards for such events.

To develop existing arrangements for co-operation in relation to cross-Border public roads and bridges, other than those designated.

To examine the scope for closer co-operation on research and related road matters.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS

To promote improved co-operation in the preservation and restoration of historic buildings, including a study of the feasibility of common machinery at a later date.

POLLUTION

To devise a common policy framework for guidance in combatting pollution; to determine quality objectives; to identify cross-Border projects; to promote harmonisation in the light of international agreements on marine pollution; to review research arrangements and the scope for co-operation.

SECRET

SPORT

To initiate studies with a view to better utilisation of resources and closer co-operation.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL
WELFARE

To initiate studies, through a joint consultative body into [specified aspects] of health and social welfare matters.