

INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT FORUM - BELFAST, 13/14 DECEMBER

1. *The Prime Minister announced in his speech to the Institute of Directors in Belfast on 21 October that he would be convening a major investment conference in the city in December. He said that leading business people from the UK, the USA, Europe and Far East, as well as senior figures from the City of London would be invited. The event, now named the International Investment Forum, has been arranged to take place at the Europa Hotel Belfast on 13 and 14 December.*

2. *The format of the event is: a formal dinner on the evening of 13 December; on 14 December a seminar, from 8.15 am to 10.30 am approx; thereafter, for the overseas delegates, visits in Northern Ireland/discussions with existing inward investors; and, in late afternoon, a final reception. The objectives are to advance negotiations that are already under way on inward investments and to establish contacts with potential new investors leading to employment creating projects in Northern Ireland. The focus is on manufacturing companies and companies in the service sector which have mobile "back office" functions that could be located in Northern Ireland.*

3. *Some 650 invitations have been issued to people outside Northern Ireland and there have been almost 150 acceptances. Some invitees will bring partners to the dinner on 13 December, total attendance at which may approach 400.*

4. *US Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown is attending the Forum with a delegation numbering around 30, including congressional figures as well as business people. At the Forum Secretary Brown and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland will sign a joint statement on co-operation between the US Department of Commerce and the Department of Economic Development on science and technology co-operation. Governor Bill Weld of Massachusetts is also bringing a delegation. M Carlo Trojan, who heads the EU Task Force on the Northern Ireland aid package is attending as the representative of M Delors. Both Secretary Brown and M Trojan will speak at the dinner and seminar.*

Mr Charlie McCreevy TD has been invited in his capacity as Republic of Ireland Minister for Trade and Tourism, but given the political uncertainties in Dublin, it is not clear whether he, or any successor, will attend. Others who will be present include the US Ambassador in London, the Lord Mayor of London, HM Consul General in the US and the Canadian High Commissioner.

5. *The business people attending include representatives of companies which have already invested in Northern Ireland and will be announcing further projects during the Forum. These are:*
 - *Du Pont, which is investing £13.5 million in a new research facility at its plant at Maydown in Londonderry;*
 - *Ford, which is investing £15 million for production of new engine components at its Belfast factory;*
 - *NACCO, which produces Hyster and Yale forklift trucks at Criagavon, is investing £11 million and will create an extra 100 jobs by 1996;*
 - *British Telecom is expanding its customer service centre at Enniskillen bringing an additional 113 jobs and is also investing £30 million in an ultra-modern office building in the Lagan side site; and*
 - *Fujitsu of Japan is investing £3.5 million and creating 100 new jobs in a new factory to make Telecom's products at Springvale in West Belfast.*

6. *The Industrial Development Board is working up a detailed programme for follow-up action with the overseas visitors in the New Year, to capitalise on contacts made at the Forum.*