

## NATIONAL ARCHIVES

### IRELAND



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# ROINN AN TAOISIGH

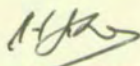
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## POSSIBLE VISIT BY POPE JOHN PAUL TO THE NORTH

Taoiseach,

Mr. O hUiginn, of the Department of Foreign Affairs, who has just returned from a visit to Britain, took advantage of a call on Mr. Newington, the Head of the Republic of Ireland Department at the Foreign Office, to inquire what their attitude would be to a visit by the Pope to Northern Ireland.

Mr. Newington said that there has been no approach by the Vatican to the British authorities. If the question of a visit to the North were to arise, he said, they would do the gracious thing and would do everything possible to facilitate the visit. His actual words were "How could we refuse"?

  
23.7.1979.