

## NATIONAL ARCHIVES

### IRELAND



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copy for information*

Meeting with Irish American Trade Union Leaders  
Berkshire Place Hotel,  
New York, 10 June 1982

*14. 6. 82*

The Taoiseach, in addressing the attendance, mentioned -

- (1) the close bond that exists not only between Ireland and America but also between Trade Unions in Ireland and the United States;
- (2) his concern that there should be close Government cooperation with trade unions in Ireland, which he, and other Ministers, met for discussions on many occasions, on economic and social problems;
- (3) the policy of the Irish Government of seeking a solution to the problem of Northern Ireland through unity by agreement, for which he was seeking support in a positive way. In the past, there might have well been a failure of communication on the positive aspects of Government policy. It was necessary that it was not only this policy but the ideals of the Irish Government should be clearly known. It was his purpose to restore full and effective communication, as far as possible;
- (4) the emphasis *of* the Government on policies which were not negative, but positive, to which people could relate;



- (5) the top political priority of his Government was the unity of Ireland by consent. This must be achieved by political means, and in a constructive way. He would ask that violence should not be countenanced, as a political means, in any way. This would set back our hopes of attaining unity. In return for the support he was asking, he would expect that the American public would, in return, get positive and definite information on Government policies and he would see that this was provided;
- (6) the great value he placed on establishing personal relationships of the type typified by the present meeting. This was possible, not only in relation to Northern Ireland, but also in many other ways. Full and constructive dialogue with trade unions was helpful in relation to policies on welfare, health, culture, etc. We could help each other in these areas and in 101 other ways.

A list of those in attendance at the meeting is attached, together with a copy of the address given by Mr. Gleason.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
10 June 1982

cc: Mr. Sean Donlon  
Mr. Sean O hUiginn