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Anglo-Irish Summit MeetingJoint Communique (Draft)

1. The Taoiseach, Dr. Garret FitzGerald TD and the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher FRS MP, met at on It was the third meeting of the Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental Council to be held at the level of Heads of Government.
2. The Taoiseach was accompanied by and the Prime Minister was accompanied by
3. The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister signed a formal and binding Agreement between their two Governments, with the aims of promoting peace and stability in Northern Ireland; helping to reconcile the two major traditions in Ireland; creating a new climate of friendship and co-operation between the people of the two countries; and improving co-operation in combatting terrorism.
4. The Agreement deals in particular with the status of Northern Ireland and the establishment of an Intergovernmental Conference in which the Irish Government will put forward views and proposals concerning stated aspects of Northern Ireland affairs; in which the promotion of cross-border co-operation will be discussed; and in which determined efforts will be made to resolve any differences between the two Governments.
5. The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister committed themselves to implementing and sustaining the measures set out in the Agreement with determination and imagination and undertook to encourage people of both the unionist and nationalist traditions in Ireland to make new efforts to understand and respect each other's concerns with a view to promoting reconciliation.

6. The Agreement provides for entry into force as soon as each Government has formally notified the other of acceptance. This exchange of notifications will not be completed until the Agreement has been approved by Dail Eireann and by the British Parliament. The two Governments intend that action to implement the provisions of the Agreement should begin once the exchange of notifications has been completed. The first meeting of the Intergovernmental Conference will take place as soon as possible thereafter. The Irish side will be led by the Minister designated as the Permanent Irish Ministerial Representative and the British side by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

7. The two Governments envisage that the meetings and agenda of the Conference will not normally be announced. But they wish it to be known that, at its first meeting, the Conference will consider its future programme of work in all the fields - political, security, legal, economic, social and cultural - which come within its competence. It will concentrate at its initial meetings on:

- relations between the security forces and the minority community in Northern Ireland;
- ways of enhancing security co-operation between the two Government; and
- seeking measures which would give substantial expression to the aim of underlining the importance of public confidence in the administration of justice.

In the interests of all the people of Northern Ireland the two sides are committed to work for early progress in these matters. Against this background the Taoiseach said that it was the intention of his Government to accede as soon as possible to the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism.

8. In addressing the improvement of relations between the security forces and the minority community, the Conference at its first meeting will consider:

- a. the application of the principle that the Armed Forces (which include the Ulster Defence Regiment) operate only in support of the civil power, with the particular objective of ensuring as rapidly as possible that, save in the most exceptional circumstances, there is a police presence in all operations which involve direct contact with the community;
- b. ways of underlining the policy of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and of the Armed Forces in Northern Ireland that they discharge their duties even-handedly and with equal respect for the unionist and nationalist identities and traditions.

9. In its discussion of the enhancement of cross-border co-operation on security, the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Conference will give particular attention to the importance of continuing and enhanced co-operation, as envisaged in Article 9(a) of the Agreement, in the policing of border areas.

10. In addition to concluding the new Agreement, the Taoiseach and the Prime Minister reviewed the wide range of work being done under the auspices of the Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental Council to develop further the unique relationship between the two countries. The fact that in the past year there have been more than twenty meetings between Ministers of the two Governments demonstrates the closeness of co-operation. Among the areas where progress has been made in the past year is the planning of new areas of co-operation in education, notably in curriculum development between schools. The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister decided that the work under the Council's auspices in these various fields should be actively continued, in the interests of friendship between all the people of both countries.

11. The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister held a full and friendly discussion of current international issues, including matters concerning the European Community. They paid particular attention to

12. The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister agreed to meet again at an appropriate time to take stock of the development of relations between the two countries and of the implementation of the Agreement which they have signed.