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Short Title Interview with Mr Haughey re: Mr Brooke's statement

Michael Murphy:

The Taoiseach has said the indication of new political possibilities given by Mr Brooke was quite clear. Asked whether he would accept Sinn Fein at a negotiating table, Mr Haughey said the government would welcome any group who accepted the constitutional way to a constitutional conference. He was speaking to reporters at the Fianna Fail Youth Conference in Tralee.

Tom MacSweeney:

The young members of Fianna Fail from all over the country attended what is the youth version of the Party's Ard Fheis with Ministers on the platform to answer the delegates and motions ranging from world affairs to employment, the environment, and health on the clár. Jobs and emmigration were a main theme at the opening session this evening and the Taoiseach told the delegates that progress was being made, but it was frustratingly slow and emmigration persisted. The Government's policy was that everyone should benefit from prosperity, not just big businesses and privileged classes. I sought Mr Haughey's reaction to Northern Secretary, Peter Brooke's comments.

Mr Haughey:

I think what he said was perfectly clear and to me anyway his message was fairly distinct, namely, that if there was to be a cessation, what I read into what he was saying was, that if violence would stop, there would be a number of possibilities which could be explored and developed.

Tom MacSweeney:

Would you read into it in any way that admission by the British that military solution is now out of the question?

Mr Haughey:

Well, I think that's always been the position of the British authorities that the type of violence that is being conducted in the North of Ireland, and indeed elsewhere, can not really be combatted in a modern society.

Tom MacSweeney:

And what about Sinn Fein at a negotiating table, Taoiseach?

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Mr Haughey:

Well, that seemed to be what the Secretary of State was saying, that if there were to be a cessation of violence, the political possibilities would be very great indeed.

Loggist M. Nevin Date 8.11.89