An Chartlann Náisiúnta
National Archives

Reference Code:	2020/17/31
Creator(s):	Department of the Taoiseach
Accession Conditions:	Open
Copyright:	National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

Statement by the Taoiseach, Mr. Charles J. Haughey, T.D.

on the Resignation of the British Prime Minister,

Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.

Dail Eireann, 22nd November, 1990.

I should like to give the Dail the text of the exchange of messages between the British Prime Minister and myself today.

The British Prime Minister's message reads as follows:

"By the time you receive this message, you will probably already have heard this morning's announcement from 10 Downing Street of my decision to make way for a successor, and to resign as Prime Minister as soon as the Parliamentary Party has completed the necessary procedures for electing a new leader.   I shall of course remain in charge of the Government until my successor has been appointed.

I should like to thank you for the great co-operation and friendship which you have shown me during our time together in office, during which so much has been achieved, and I send you my warmest good wishes for the future.   I know that my successor will continue to attach the highest importance to the relations between our countries."

My message was in the following terms:-

"As your historic term as Prime Minister comes to an end I would like to convey to you my congratulations on your long tenure of office and my best wishes for the future.

I greatly valued the many useful conversations we had and the co-operation we were able to achieve in many areas of Anglo-Irish relations. I recall too our work together in the Councils of the European Community and in international affairs at a time of great change.

I believe that our first meetings in 1980 commenced a process of placing relations between our two countries on a new plane which can lead to the establishment of a framework reflecting the totality of relationships within these islands."