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Mr. Hennessy,

Perhaps betw. para. 5 and 6 we might insert  
sent. abt. economic convergence - i.e. marked contribution  
of Cty. policies to over economic growth. This is achieved  
without deficit in g. summary (para. 7). The draft is a big

Mr. Neligan

In 1975 the European Parliament published as part of its series of public information publications a study concerning the impact on Ireland of Community membership. Material for the various chapters was supplied by Departments; a section on "Relations with Britain and Northern Ireland" was prepared in this section. A copy of the relevant extract from the published report is at X.

The Parliament secretariat are preparing a revised edition which they hope will be released before the European elections next month. On request a revised note<sup>(buz 2)</sup> for the Northern Ireland section was given to Mr. Killeen (a former official at ~~Leinster~~ House) of the Parliament last September. In the draft which we have now received from him for comment this section has been expanded somewhat to include a potted history of Northern Ireland (Tag Y). While it is not seriously objectionable it naturally misses many of the nuances of our desired presentation. Rather than<sup>Health</sup> to remedy it - given that we do not have editorial control - I suggest that this section be trimmed drastically. I have prepared a redraft in this sense as well as making certain minor amendments to other sections of the text.

Submitted, please.

improvement on that of the  
Secretariat and suggest to  
the Bureau may be sent back  
to Killeen.

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*  
3/5/79

P. Hennessy

1 May, 1979

Ma Boevinga

Please ok a new file  
- 30/6 never for then pps

*[Signature]*

MR Hennessy,

Re: Updated Study by European Parliament on  
Effects on Ireland of Community Membership

We have now received a draft of Chapter 1 of the  
above study (for which you supplied some  
material). I enclose the sections of the chapter  
dealing with relations between Britain and Northern  
Ireland and a Framework for North-South Cooperation  
and would be grateful for your observations on  
these for transmission to Mr. Seamus Killen of the  
Parliament's secretariat who is dealing with the study,

Tom Hanney  
23/2/79

Gwen to S. Kilbey &amp; E. Doyle (E.P.) 14/5/78.

A Framework for North-South Co-operation

1. The instability which has been a continuing feature of political life in Northern Ireland finds a reflection in the area's pattern of economic development, particularly in regions adjacent to the border. In an effort to bring about an improvement of this situation both the British and Irish Governments have taken a number of steps to promote closer <sup>cross-border</sup> co-operation over a wide range of economic matters. The fact that both parts of the island are in the European Community has facilitated this process and has contributed to a heightened awareness both North and South of the closeness of interests in relation to EEC policies in such areas as agriculture, industry and competition. This is particularly so in relation to regional policy and regional development, for whose purposes the whole island is regarded as an underdeveloped region.

2. Following a meeting in September 1977 between the Taoiseach and the British Prime Minister a Steering Group was set up to examine possible economic co-operation, particularly between North and South. This Group recommended a Study of the River Erne catchment area with particular reference to the development of tourism and to the improvement of land <sup>resources</sup> through arterial drainage. This recommendation has been endorsed by the Irish and British Governments and, with the full involvement of the EEC, is now under way. It is expected that the Consultants will complete their work before the end of this year. Another cross-border Study presently under way and which is again being partly financed from the Commission budget, is a Study of herring stocks in the North-West Irish Sea.

3. In December 1977 a Study on Cross-Border Communications in the Derry-Donegal area was published. This Study, which had been commissioned by the Irish and British Governments, was partly financed by the Community. The Irish Government completed the first stage of its examination of the proposals in June 1978 and announced agreement in principle on a programme of implementation covering the main proposals in the Consultants' recommendations. Work is now proceeding in the Study area on a number of projects on both sides of the border which



give effect to these recommendations, in many cases with substantial EEC assistance. The Economic and Social Committee which visited the area following the publication of the Study has endorsed its findings and indicated its support for the view that the EEC has a particular role to play in promoting the economic development of the area.

4. The Council of Ministers decided in 1978 to commit 8 m.u.a. for arterial drainage projects in Irish border regions. The details of this scheme are at present being worked out by the Commission in consultation with the two administrations.

5. This form of practical co-operation reflects the fact that both parts of the island share the burden of difficulties afflicting the Community's deprived regions, and mutual interest dictates a shared solution of this burden. The commitment of the Community as a whole to a greater European union will undoubtedly contribute to a breaking down of barriers between people in both parts of Ireland, all of whom are now in a special sense citizens of Europe.

6. The greatly improved performance of the Republic's economy in recent years in which Community membership has played no small part has of course made co-operation a more attractive proposition. The fact that Ireland has now the fastest growth rate of all member States and has been able to contribute to the development of Community policies over a wide range of areas in directions responsive to her basic economic interests has been a powerful stimulant to fresh consideration of the benefits of a coordinated approach.

7. With direct elections to the European Parliament in June 1979, democratically elected members from both sides of the border will share the same political forum. It is clear that they will also share a common interest in many aspects of Community activity which have a distinct relevance to the whole island. The desirability of a co-operative approach to the protection of these interests is unlikely to go unnoticed.

8. It can be seen therefore that Ireland's membership of the EEC has given a fillip to cross-border co-operation. On a general level it has contributed to a marked degree of economic convergence as between Northern Ireland and the Republic which has served to facilitate co-operation. More particularly the Community has assisted in a very practical way in the carrying out of joint projects of mutual interest in areas along the border. On yet another level the directly elected Parliament will provide new opportunities for even closer co-operation on a wide range of matters of interest to all of the people of the island.

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A Framework for North-South Co-operation

The Irish Government's official statement in advance of the Irish referendum in May 1972 held out the expectation in regard to relations with Northern Ireland that accession would "create conditions in which we can all - North and South - work together for the benefit of the whole country".<sup>1</sup>

Specific developments in this regard include a study on Cross-Border Communications in the Derry-Donegal area commissioned by the Irish and British Governments which was part financed by the Communities, <sup>and which</sup> was published in December 1977. Both Governments are at present considering the various Study recommendations with a view to working out, with EEC aid where appropriate, coordinated programmes for their implementation. The Economic and Social Committee which visited the area following the publication of the Study has endorsed the Study findings and indicated its support for the view that the EEC has a particular role to play in promoting the economic development of the area.

In May 1976 the Irish and British Governments received and endorsed the recommendations of the Steering Group which was set up following the meeting in September 1977 between the Taoiseach and British Prime Minister with a mandate to review the arrangements and opportunities for economic co-operation, particularly between North and South. These include a proposal for a study of the development potential of the river Erne catchment area with reference to the development of tourism <sup>and</sup> the improvement of land resources through arterial drainage. It is expected that this will be one of the projects to benefit from the European Parliament's initiative in securing the inclusion in the 1978 Commission budget of a special provision for development studies in Irish border regions. Another cross-border study, on which work is almost already to begin, and which is again being part financed from the Commission budget is a study of Herring stocks in the North-West Irish Sea.

A further indication of the contribution which the Community can make to the promotion of cross-border economic development was the decision by the Council of Ministers earlier this year to commit 8 m.u.a. for arterial drainage projects in Irish border regions. The details of this scheme are at present being worked out by the Commission in consultation with the two administrations.

This form of practical co-operation reflects the fact that both parts of the island share the burden of difficulties afflicting the Community's deprived regions, and mutual interest dictates a shared solution of this burden. In any event it is only realistic to expect that the commitment of the Community as a whole to a more complete form of European union would contribute to a breaking down of barriers between people in both parts of Ireland, all of whom are now in a special sense citizens of Europe. With the advent of the directly elected European Parliament in 1979 representatives from North and South will share a common political forum and their community of interests in the fields of agriculture, regional and social policy and many other aspects of Community activity ensures that they will make a distinctively Irish contribution to the work of that body.

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7/ *ph*  
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- N. Quota for 2000