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ANGLO-IRISH INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE

JOINT RECORD OF REGULAR MEETING HELD ON 9 MAY 1986 IN THE
NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE, LONDON

Participants:

	<u>British Side</u>	<u>Irish Side</u>
Joint Chairmen	Mr. Tom King	Mr. Peter Barry
Ministerial	Sir Michael Havers Sir Patrick Mayhew Mr. Nicholas Scott	Mr. Alan Dukes Mr. John Rogers
Officials	Sir Robert Andrew Mr. Michael Saunders Mr. Anthony Brennan Mr. Anthony Stephens Mr. David Chesterton Mr. Gerald Clark Mr. Jim Daniell Mr. Andrew Wood	Mr. Sean Donlon Ambassador Dorr Mr. Andrew Ward Mr. Matthew Russell Mr. Eamonn O Tuathail Mr. Richard O'Brien Mr. Declan O'Donovan Mr. Ted Smyth
Secretariat	Mr. Mark Elliott Mr. Stephen Hewitt Miss Valerie Steele	Mr. Michael Lillis Mr. Daithi O'Ceallaigh Mr. Noel Ryan

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Legal Matters

1. Interim reports from Working Groups I and II set up under Article 8 had been circulated (copies attached).
2. In the course of a discussion of possible measures which would increase public confidence in the administration of justice, the Irish side argued for the introduction of three-judge "Diplock" courts, and for the creation of a second senior post in the administrative structure of the judiciary. Both sides developed the considerations set out in the relevant interim report.
3. The British side expressed the hope that Ireland would ratify the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, including the offences covered in Article 2, without a reservation under Article 13. They stressed the importance of ensuring that, in any forthcoming Irish legislation on extradition, provisions would not be introduced which would place new obstacles in the way of extradition between the two jurisdictions. They cited a possible rule of speciality and a possible prima facie evidence rule. The Irish side said that the feasibility of enacting legislation which would meet such criteria depended to a major degree on the success of the Conference in identifying measures to increase public confidence in the administration of justice in Northern Ireland and that, moreover, the Irish Government's parliamentary task had been made more difficult by problems related to the handling of certain recent extradition cases. The British side said that extradition should be seen as a separate issue in its own right.
4. It was agreed that officials would continue their work on the range of issues within the remit of both Working Groups and report to the next meeting of the Conference.

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Economic and Social

5. A British paper on co-operation in tourism had been circulated. An Irish paper will be presented shortly. The British side put forward a suggestion for marketing the island as a whole, especially in relation to some specific tourist attractions. The Irish side proposed a study of tourism in the whole island and an examination of how elements of the work of the Tourism Tripartite Group might be brought within the Conference. It was agreed that the Secretariat would explore with experts the potential for further joint action.
6. It was agreed, following a discussion on the question of Sellafield, that the Secretariat would examine with experts the possibilities for the development of exchanges of information and of co-operation in the monitoring of nuclear pollution North and South, and also of the control of pollution of inland waterways.
7. It was agreed to organise a meeting through the Secretariat, with officials, to examine the Ballyconnell Canal in the context of linking the Erne and Shannon waterways.
8. It was noted that a meeting between Ministers of the Environment, North and South, would take place shortly which would consider the Newry-Dundalk Road project.
9. There was a preliminary exchange of views on the advantages and disadvantages of introducing a Bill of Rights in some form in Northern Ireland on the basis of a paper presented by the British side. The Irish side agreed to present a paper and it was further agreed to pursue the issue through the Secretariat, bringing in experts as appropriate.
10. On housing, the Irish side pressed for a decision in principle to be taken as soon as possible for the demolition over time of Divis Flats and for the rehousing of the residents. The British side explained the statutory role of the Housing

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Executive in this area. They said that current thinking envisaged partial demolition combined with a plan to refurbish some of the blocks. They undertook that the views of the Irish side would be considered.

Security Co-operation

11. The Conference received a short progress report by the Secretariat on the work of the Chief Constable of the RUC and the Commissioner of the Garda Siochana in preparing a programme of work as envisaged in Article 9(a). It was explained that the three joint Garda/RUC working groups were due to complete the tasks allotted to them and to report at an early date. Arrangements had been made for an early meeting between the Chief Constable and the Commissioner and this will be followed by further meetings with officials as appropriate in preparation for decision by the Conference.

Relations between the Community and the Security Forces

12. The Irish side said they would shortly be in a position to put forward proposals on Article 7(c). The British side said that such proposals would require discussion with the Police Authority. The British side said it was in their view important, in the interest both of the police and of the minority community, that the Irish side should submit as soon as possible names for consideration by the Secretary of State for appointment to the Police Authority. The Irish side said they were making determined efforts to identify suitable candidates but that they were encountering serious difficulties which would be diminished if greater progress were made on the implementation of Article 7(c).

Current Issues

13. In response to queries about recent loyalist attacks on the police and on the Catholic community, the British side underlined the efforts being made by the RUC. The Irish side

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said that they appreciated these efforts to protect the community against sectarian violence. They reminded the British side of the need for further progress on the Code of Conduct and on the accompaniment by the RUC of Army (including UDR) patrols. They also enquired about the position in relation to the Stalker Report.

Joint Statement

14. A Joint Statement was agreed. A copy is attached.

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