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Informal Call by Mr. Nicholas Scott, M.P.,
on Tanaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Brian Lenihan
at Iveagh House - Saturday 21 March, at 11.30 am

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Present: British Ambassador, Mr. N. Fenn
Secretary, Mr. N. Dorr
Mr. E. O Tuathail

The meeting was informal. No notes were taken on either side. After the Tanaiste had welcomed Mr. Scott, there was some discussion of the visit by the Taoiseach and Tanaiste to Washington for St. Patrick's Day. Mr. Scott referred to the generous spirit shown by the new Government and commented on the fact that not only had the previous Taoiseach been present but had participated in the official events. The Tanaiste said that this was the spirit that informed the present Government.

The Tanaiste said that the Government accepted the Anglo-Irish Agreement and wanted to make the Conference work. His attitude was a practical one and he wanted to get on with the work of the Conference.

Mr. Scott said that he appreciated this attitude. He looked forward to promoting the work of the Conference. He commented however, that remarks expressing doubts about the validity of Article 1 of the Agreement had an undermining effect. Unionists saw Article 1 as something of interest to them. Doubts expressed in public about Article 1 could lead to questions being raised about our commitment in general to the Agreement and the Conference. The Tanaiste said that he would take note of what Mr. Scott said.

Mr. Scott enquired about the present position of the case being taken in our Courts as to the constiutionality Article 1 of the Agreement by McGimpsey. We said that no action had been taken

to activate this matter .It was for McGimpsey to make the next move.

As to expressions of the nationalist desire for Irish Unity, Mr. Scott remarked that this was much more acceptable. The British Government accepted that this was a legitimate nationalist aspiration and while from the unionist point of view it might be preferable not to repeat this every minute of the day, the public repetition of this aspiration was perfectly understandable and valid and was contained in the Agreement itself.

The Tanaiste said that he hoped there would be a meeting before Easter (i.e. of the Conference). Mr. Scott took this up as the invitation by the Secretary of State Tom King to a "get to know you" meal in London. The Tanaiste explained that he could not travel until after the Budget on 31 March and therefore had had to regret the invitation for 25 or 26 March. However, it might be possible to fit in such a meeting in connection with the Tanaiste's week-end Gymnich type meeting in Brussels on 4/5 April. For instance on the way back on 6 April in London. Mr. Scott welcomed this suggestion. The Tanaiste said that naturally he would put the idea to Mr. King through the Secretariat. The London meeting could be over a meal or in any form suitable.

There was a brief discussion of the type of agenda for the meeting of the Conference itself. The Tanaiste emphasised that it should take place before Easter. He would like to have a small agenda. Mr. Scott referred to the British interest in cross-border security cooperation. The Tanaiste mentioned Fair Employment and said that there should be a balance between progress on security issues on the one hand and social/economic issues on the other.

Mr. Scott referred to his particular interest in three items -
(i) fertilisers which may be used in homemade explosives; (ii)

surveillance by the Gardai to curb subversive activity and (iii) development of direct radio contact between Gardai and British army in areas of South Armagh and Fermanagh where there is no RUC presence.

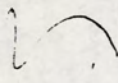
It was agreed that the idea of a small agenda should be put through the Secretariat. The Tanaiste felt that further discussion could take place informally (over a meal). It was probably better not to have a general review at the Conference meeting itself.

Mr. Dorr enquired about the Code of Conduct. Mr. Scott said that this was still in the Police Authority. There had been a problem as the DUP members on the Police Authority wanted to include the Constable's Oath. Hermon had resisted this, but perhaps the way out was to attach it as an Annex. We commented that this could cause problems. The traditional Constable's oath was difficult for nationalists to accept. One way would be to have two sorts of oath. For instance an oath to uphold the Code itself was a possibility. We said we would like to come back to this. Scott commented that the Code was a matter for the Chief Constable.

Mr. Scott referred to his forthcoming visit to the States. The Tanaiste had mentioned the MacBride Principles in connection with Fair Employment. We said that we would like to talk about these at the Conference.

The Tanaiste mentioned also the Fund and the need to show results if the 4th and 5th tranches were to be authorised by Congress. Mr. Scott said he would note this under his Finance responsibilities. The Tanaiste commented also on the need for an EEC contribution to balance the US donation. Mr. Scott referred to the Chairman of the Fund, Mr. Brett, as being very

good. The Tanaiste will have an opportunity to see Mr. Brett when he comes to Dublin on 3 April, which will be before the next Board meeting of the Fund and Mr. Brett's visit to Washington and Ottawa.


Eamon O Tuathail
23 March, 1987.

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