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COMMUNIQUE (to be released at 5 p.m.)

Captain Terence O'Neill, M.P., Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, and Mrs. O'Neill were today the guests of the Taoiseach and Mrs. Lemass at lunch in Iveagh House, Dublin. Captain O'Neill was returning Mr. Lemass's visit to Belfast on 14 January.

Captain and Mrs. O'Neill were accompanied by Mr. Cecil Bateman, Secretary to the Northern Ireland Cabinet, and Mrs. Bateman, Mr. Kenneth Bloomfield, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet, and Mrs. Bloomfield, and Mr. J.Y. Malley, Private Secretary, and Mrs. Malley.

Also present at the luncheon, with their wives, were the Ministers for Finance, External Affairs and Industry and Commerce, and three Secretaries of Departments, Messrs. T.K. Whitaker, H.G. Nolan and H.J. McCann.

The Prime Ministers, Ministers and officials held a conference after lunch at which there was a general review of the scope for mutually beneficial co-operation in matters of common interest and arrangements were made to continue to explore specific possibilities in further meetings at both Ministerial and official levels.

Dublin.

9 February, 1965.