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Uimhir Thagartha

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 ROINN AN TAOISIGH
 DEPARTMENT OF THE TAOISEACH

 BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 2
 DUBLIN 2

28 Bealtaine 1970

 An Rúnaí Príobháideach
 An tAire Gnóthaí Eachtracha

I am to refer to the memorandum No. 305/14/192 E dated the 2nd February, 1970, submitted by the Minister for External Affairs regarding policy in relation to the Six Counties, and to inform you that, at a meeting held today, the Government decided

- (a) that the Minister for External Affairs should establish an Inter-Departmental Unit, comprising representatives of the Departments of External Affairs, the Taoiseach and Finance,
- (i) to keep in touch with all aspects of Anglo-Irish relations having a bearing on the Six Counties,
 - (ii) to arrange for the study in depth of possible long-term solutions (e.g., the federal solution), as well as short-term problems, *Constitutional*
 - (iii) to advise on the creation and maintenance of contact with various responsible groups in the Six Counties and - through the Embassy in London - in Britain,
 - (iv) to guide and direct information activity abroad on the subject and
 - (v) to act as a clearing-house for the activities of other Departments in relation to the Six Counties from the point of view of drawing attention to possible conflict with general policy and of encouraging positive action where this is considered desirable and
- (b) that the Unit should report to the Taoiseach, through the Minister for External Affairs.

N. S. O. Keenan

Rúnaí an Rialtais