

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES****IRELAND**

**Reference Code:** 2002/19/535

**Title:** Extracts from a press interview with United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim following a meeting between Minister for Foreign Affairs Patrick Hillery and the chef de cabinet of the secretary general, Mr Narasimhan, discussing the Northern Ireland situation.

**Creation Date(s):** 11 February, 1972

**Level of description:** Item

**Extent and medium:** 3 pages

**Creator(s):** Department of the Foreign Affairs

**Access Conditions:** Open

**Copyright:** National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

11th February, 1972

Extracts from Press Release  
SG/SM/1632, 7th February, 1972

QUESTION: ...before when you returned, because the Foreign Minister of Ireland was here while you were away and we understand that he left a document for you in your absence [the first part of this sentence was inaudible]. Are you in a position now to give us some idea as to what he expects from you?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: As you know, Mr. Hillery saw my Chef de Cabinet, Mr. Narasimhan, and informed him of the very grave situation in Northern Ireland, especially with regard to the grave incidents of last week and the purpose of this intervention, as far as I know -- I was not here, as you know -- is that the United Nations should help, should lend their Good Offices in order to alleviate the situation in Northern Ireland.

Now, as you also know, this is, of course, a matter of the internal policy of a Member State and, therefore, we have the problem of Article 2, paragraph 7 and we are in a situation in which we can only actively help if both parties

- 2 -

agree to it. This is a juridical situation and I wish to tell you here and now that we are, of course, quite happy to help if both parties agree.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary-General, you have not spoken about your meeting with the Pope yet. Could you tell me what international problems were discussed, and did the Pope make any concrete suggestions for any of the international problems?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: I had a long tour d'horizon with His Holiness the Pope, for more than an hour, and I was deeply impressed by the great interest which His Holiness has shown in international problems, and especially in the efforts of the United Nations. He said that we -- that is, the Church and the United Nations -- are working with the same aim, namely, peace in the world. We had a wide exchange of views on all the more important international problems: the situation in the Middle East, the situation in the Far East, and the situation in Ireland, which is, of course, very close to the hearts of all of us. We had a very thorough exchange of views on all international problems and I was deeply impressed by the interest which His Holiness has shown in this connexion in the work of the United Nations, and I was very encouraged by everything he told me.

- 3 -

QUESTION: Do you plan to get in touch with the British Government to find out whether they would be interested in the UN good offices or a UN role in the problem?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: Of course, I informed them immediately after I had been informed by my Chef de Cabinet. He sent me, of course, the contents of his conversation with Minister Hillery; he sent it to me when I was in Addis Ababa, and while there I informed the British Ambassador of this intervention and asked him to forward this request to the British Government, and we agreed that since he was going to England -- he has not yet returned -- that I would get the answer from the British Government as soon as possible.