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Taoiseach's note of his meeting with
Mr. James Callaghan, M.P., on
Friday, 5th February, 1971.

The meeting commenced at 12.15 p. m. with a general conversation including reminiscences of our former meeting in Washington during a meeting of the International Monetary Fund.

There was then an interruption for about ten minutes while photographs were taken.

On resuming, Mr. Callaghan enquired about the Irish political scene and there was a discussion on each of the political parties - their *raison d'etre*, their personnel (some of) and their political philosophy.

We then discussed the applications of both countries for membership of EEC. Mr. Callaghan did not feel that membership would have any great impact on the partition problem. I said that we felt that some factors in membership would have some appreciable influence including common social policies.

I referred to Major Chichester Clarke's statement which was reported in that morning's newspapers about the decision to be taken in the forthcoming Unionist Council meeting and his position as leader. Mr. Callaghan did not think that he would be displaced. I said that, if by any chance a 'Craig' surfaced as leader, there could be immediate and dire repercussions. (I had in mind here a suggestion that I think he had made about the possibility of the British Government giving such a regime some time to see how it would work but I did not refer to it).

He then referred to the possibility of an alternative to the Unionist Government - he said he was aware of our objection to the formation of a branch of the British Labour Party in the North as a means of providing such an opposition. He did not pursue this but spoke of his idea of helping the N. I. L. P. to attract not only workers but small farmers (Unionists) as well.

We spoke again about economic difficulties common to both our countries,

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e. g. , inflation. He said that claims for increased wages had now become much more sophisticated in the U. K. He instanced the demand of Mr. Jack Jones (not Mr. Callaghan's cup of tea) Union on Fords, a well argued case in the form of a booklet - crazy economics but expertly compiled and very convincing for the Union members. Fords have not yet replied to it. Returning to the Common Market - he was for it but it is obvious he would lose no sleep over it. He had no doubt about Mr. Heath's enthusiasm for it but he doubted if he had yet counted heads in his own party. A prominent Tory back-bencher told him recently that he would vote in Parliament against entry even if it split the Tory Party and put them into opposition. There were probably 60 more like him. As a purely personal opinion he thought, much as Heath was committed to Europe, he preferred to be Prime Minister.

The meeting concluded at 1. 20 p. m.

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