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The following statement was issued today by the Government Information Bureau on behalf of the Department of the Taoiseach:-

The Taoiseach, accompanied by Mr. Brian Lenihan, Minister for Transport and Power and Mr. Joe Brennan, Minister for Labour and Minister for Social Welfare, this morning met the following members of the Social Democratic and Labour Party:-

Mr. Gerry Fitt, M.P., Leader of the Party,

Mr. Paddy Devlin, M.P.,

Mr. Austin Currie, M.P.,

Mr. John Hume, M.P.,

Mr. Paddy O'Hanlon, M.P.

The main topic for discussion was the recently published booklet entitled "Towards a New Ireland", which sets out the proposals put forward by the S.D.L.P. to solve the present difficulties in the North of Ireland.

The Taoiseach reiterated his support for the principles on which the S.D.L.P. proposals are based.

The meeting was unanimous - that quadripartite talks would provide the only meaningful vehicle for arriving at a solution to the present conflict.

A further series of discussions is planned in order to examine the details of the S.D.L.P. proposals and to ensure the closest consultation in the critical period ahead.

28 Meán Fómhair, 1972.