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Telegraphs Conor Cruise O'Brien on the  
proposed national day of reconciliation.

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DRAFT*11/1/73  
As discussed with  
newbury. J  
914*MEMORANDUMTO TAOISEACHFROM MINISTERS [FOR DEFENCE AND] POSTS AND TELEGRAPHSSUBJECT: DAY OF RECONCILIATION*Not yet discussed  
with M/Def.**6/4/73*

1. It is proposed to set aside St. Patrick's Day as a Day of Reconciliation.
2. The Government will consult with the Ecclesiastical Authorities concerned about the holding of special ecumenical services on that date, and for the maximum appropriate state participation in such services (members of present Government, Judiciary, Defence Forces etc).
3. The exact nature of the ceremonies will be a matter for arrangement with the Ecclesiastical Authorities, and will largely be determined by them.
4. It is proposed that the ceremonies include two minutes silence in memory of all who died for Ireland, and all the victims of civil strife in Ireland.
5. There will be prayers for peace and reconciliation between Irish people of different traditions.
6. In its commemorative aspect the Day of Reconciliation includes all who are commemorated at a number of annual ceremonies. As far as the State is concerned, the Day of Reconciliation will henceforward be the sole public commemoration of the year. Individuals and groups remain of course free to hold such commemorations as they think proper, subject to the ordinary provisions of the law.

As the ceremonies are peace-orientated there will be no military display in connection with them, nor will weapons be displayed during the church ceremonies. The Officers of the defence forces who will be present will be there in their role as guardians of peace, in an imperfect world.