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TEXT OF STATEMENT BY AN TAOISEACH,
MR. LIAM COSGRAVE, T.D., IN DÁIL
ÉIREANN ON TUESDAY, 6 MAY, 1975.

STATEMENT BY TAOISEACH, MR. LIAM COSGRAVE, T.D.,
IN DAIL BIREANN ON TUESDAY, 6th MAY, 1975.

The policy of the Government in relation to Northern Ireland is based on two principles; the necessity for a power-sharing executive in Northern Ireland and the need to give appropriate recognition to the relationship which exists between the two parts of Ireland in such matters as economic and social policy and security.

The Government has in all its communications with the United Kingdom Government reiterated this policy. In September last, after a meeting which I held with the British Prime Minister, Mr. Wilson, the joint communique issued after the meeting stated:-

"On Northern Ireland both the Taoiseach and the Prime Minister agreed in the interest of all the people living there - and of the people of both countries - that peace and stability should be restored on a basis commanding widespread acceptance within the community there. They re-affirmed that this objective can be achieved only if both sections of the community in Northern Ireland share power in Government. The Taoiseach and Prime Minister confirmed that any enduring political arrangements must take account of the special relationship which exists between the two parts of Ireland. This Irish dimension will be the subject of further consultations between the two Governments and also with elected representatives in Northern Ireland".

At a further meeting in November last, Mr. Wilson and I reaffirmed the identity of our views on Northern Ireland as expressed in the communique I have just quoted.

The Government believes that continued insistence by the British and Irish Governments on their agreed policy on these matters, to which they are, separately and jointly committed will, in due course, lead to a general recognition of the fact that no alternative system of internal government in Northern Ireland, based on the exclusion of the minority from power, will be acceptable to these sovereign governments or will be workable in practice. Recognition of this reality by all the political leaders who seek to participate in the running of Northern Ireland's affairs is a necessary pre-condition for the creation of stable government and peace in Northern Ireland.

The Government will take every opportunity of making its position clear within Ireland, in Britain and abroad.

In pursuing its policy it has been proper for the Government to keep in close touch with political parties in Northern Ireland. It will continue to do so - in particular, with the SDLP, without whose acceptance, as the party which has repeatedly secured the confidence of the vast bulk of the minority, no effective system of government can be put into operation in Northern Ireland.