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MEETING BETWEEN THE TAOISEACH AND THE PRIME MINISTER

25 SEPTEMBER 1977

Agreed Communiqué

The Taoiseach, Mr Jack Lynch, accompanied by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Michael O'Kennedy, had talks at No. 10 Downing Street today with the Prime Minister, Mr James Callaghan. The Prime Minister was accompanied by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr Roy Mason, and the Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Mr Frank Judd.

2. The talks took place in the context of Anglo/Irish relations, the European Community and international developments generally. The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister discussed the world economic situation and in particular the problems of inflation and unemployment. They agreed that the growth of world trade was disappointing and that more should be done to secure a higher rate of growth and reduce unemployment. A further stimulus to the world economy was required and both countries must continue to work for stabilisation and for growth. The European Community matters discussed included the application of Greece, Portugal and Spain for membership of the European Community, Direct Elections, the Common Fisheries Policy, the Common Agricultural Policy and the future of JET. The talks also covered bilateral matters including the economic prospects of the two countries and the Continental Shelf.

3. The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister were united in re-affirming their commitment in the immediate future to achieving the earliest possible restoration of peace and political stability in Northern Ireland. The Taoiseach welcomed the Prime Minister's statement that the British

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Government's policy was to work towards a devolved system of Government in which all sections of the Community could participate on a fair basis and in which the rights of all citizens are fully safeguarded. In the meantime, if there was a general desire, the British Government would be ready to devolve a range of powers to a locally-elected body under arrangements acceptable to both sides of the community.

4. The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister emphasised the importance which they attached to security co-operation between the authorities on both sides of the border and expressed satisfaction at the degree of co-operation under the present arrangements. They agreed that in the context of further Anglo/Irish meetings, there should be continuing consultation about how this co-operation could be developed and improved.
5. It was agreed by the Taoiseach and the Prime Minister that it would be of mutual advantage to improve practical co-operation between the Republic and the United Kingdom on economic matters. Officials of the two Governments, would, therefore, meet in the near future to review the arrangements and opportunities for economic co-operation with particular reference to Northern Ireland. They would review current and proposed cross-border studies and identify subjects and areas for further examination, with EEC assistance where appropriate.
6. The talks took place in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister agreed to maintain contact on a regular basis.

Irish Embassy  
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