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Possible draft Agreed Statement

The Taoiseach, Mr. Charles Haughey T.D., today met the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher, M.P. at Dublin Castle. The Taoiseach was accompanied by Mr. Brian Lenihan, T.D., Minister for Foreign Affairs and by Mr. Michael O'Kennedy, T.D., Minister for Finance. The Prime Minister was accompanied by the Rt. Hon. the Lord Carrington, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; by the Rt. Hon. Humphrey Atkins, M.P., Secretary of State for Northern Ireland [and by Mr. Biffen, Secretary to the Treasury]. The Taoiseach gave luncheon in honour of the Prime Minister and the two Heads of Government had a full discussion of matters of common interest.

In regard to the development of closer political cooperation between their Governments, the Taoiseach and the Prime Minister reviewed the progress made in discussion between Irish and British Ministers in various fields since their last meeting on 21 May, 1980. [In particular they noted]

The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister noted the importance of reconciliation in Northern Ireland and agreed that the development of relations between their Governments had been impaired by the continued instability there.

They accordingly agreed that special talks should be pursued on a continuing basis between their Governments to consider how, through a fundamental re-examination of the relations between the

various regions of both islands, having regard to the unique relationship between their countries, progress might be made towards a solution of the present problems in Northern Ireland.

The Taoiseach and Prime Minister directed that such special talks should be prepared so as to enable a re-examination of relations in the political, economic, security, structural, social and legal fields *to be undertaken*.

Option 1

The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister noted the importance of reconciliation in Northern Ireland and agreed that the development of relations between their Governments had been impaired by the continued instability there. They accordingly agreed that a conference of the two Governments should be convened during 1981 in ~~order~~ to consider how, through a fundamental re-examination of the relations between ~~all the parts~~ of the two islands, progress might be made towards a solution of the present problems in Northern Ireland.

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44

Option 2

The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister noted the importance of reconciliation in Northern Ireland and agreed that the development of relations between their Governments had been impaired by the continued instability there. They accordingly agreed that a conference of the two Governments should be convened during 1981 in order to consider whether a solution to the present problems might be found in a fundamental re-examination of the relations between all the areas of the two islands.