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Joint Statement following meeting between the Taoiseach
and Ministers and SDLP delegation, 6 February, 1981.

The Taoiseach, Mr. Charles J. Haughey, T.D., the
Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Brian Lenihan, T.D., and the
Minister for Education, Mr. John Wilson, T.D.
met a delegation from the SDLP in Dublin today.

The SDLP were represented by Mr. John Hume, MEP, leader
of the Party, Mr. Séamus Mallon, deputy leader, Dr.
Joe Hendron, Chairman of the Constituency Representatives,
Mr. Austin Currie, Constituency Representative and
Liaison Officer for the Party with Dublin, Mr. Michael
Canavan, spokesman on Security, Mr. Hugh Logue, Economic
spokesman and Mr. Frank Feely, spokesman on Cross-Border
Economic Development. and

The meeting was one of a regular series between the Government
and the SDLP for the purpose of discussing current developments
in regard to Northern Ireland.

The SDLP representatives gave their support to the Government's
approach to securing peace, reconciliation and stability
in Northern Ireland. Satisfaction was expressed at the
outcome of the summit meeting in Dublin in December between
the British Prime Minister and the Taoiseach. Both sides
reiterated that the process set in train there opened up the
prospect of a better future in which the real political,
economic and social interests of all the peoples of these
islands, including both sections of the community in
Northern Ireland, can be secured.

The economic plight of Northern Ireland was a subject of
great concern to the meeting and was discussed at length.

There was also a full exchange of views on the security situation and the administration of justice in Northern Ireland.