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ROINN AN TAOISIGH

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FRIENDS OF IRELAND

TAOISEACH'S MEETING WITH SPEAKER O'NEILL

The Taoiseach visited Speaker O'Neill in his office at 3.30 p.m. on 17th March.

During the course of a brief conversation in the office, the following subjects were touched on -

- (i) the necessity for the two sovereign governments to deal with the Northern Ireland problem;
- (ii) the Irish economy - and the effects of recession;
- (iii) the balance of payments situation;
- (iv) the size of the Budget deficit;
- (v) unemployment;
- (vi) inflation;
- (vii) oil and gas exploration;
- (viii) rates of interest, and
- (ix) President Reagan's supply side economics.

The Taoiseach and the Speaker went then to another room, where Congressmen Foley and Speaker O'Neill introduced the Taoiseach to a group representing the "Friends of Ireland". The Taoiseach spoke for some time to the group on the Government's Northern and economic policies.


19 March, 1982.

[Copy to Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs]7.