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Statement issued after the meeting between
the Taoiseach and a delegation from the
Friends of Ireland Group in the United States
Congress.

The Taoiseach, Mr. Charles J. Haughey, met a delegation to-day at Government Buildings from the Friends of Ireland Group in the United States Congress which is making an interparliamentary visit to Ireland at the invitation of the Ceann Comhairle, Dr. John O'Connell, T.D.

The Group included Congressman Thomas Foley, Senator Dodd, Congressman Charles Dougherty and Congressman James Shannon. Speaker Tip O'Neill is represented on the Group by his Counsel, Mr. Kirk O'Donnell.

The visit is the first by members of the Friends of Ireland which was established last year as a bipartisan enterprise in Congress dedicated to the promotion of co-operation and understanding between the Irish and American people and committed to the goal of Irish unity by consent as the most effective means to achieve a lasting peace in Northern Ireland.

The Taoiseach welcomed the Group and said that he fully supported its role in the further strengthening of relations between Ireland and the United States.

The Group expressed their appreciation of the invitation to visit Ireland at this time. They indicated their intention of playing as active and informative a role as possible in Irish American relations.

The participants also discussed European Community matters and other international issues.

31 May, 1982.