

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

## IRELAND



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Statement read by Mr J. Tobin, Clerk of Seanad following meeting of Party Leaders, 21st April 1983.

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The Leaders of the four parties who have indicated their intention to participate in the proposed Forum at a meeting today discussed arrangements for the Forum. Those present were the Taoiseach, Dr. Garret FitzGerald, T.D., Leader of Fine Gael, the Tanaiste, Mr Dick Spring, T.D., Leader of the Labour Party, Mr Charles Haughey, T.D., Leader of Fianna Fáil and Mr John Hume, M.E.P., Leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party.

The Party Leaders recalled that the views of people of all traditions who wish for lasting peace and stability in a new Ireland will be sought by the Forum. They expressed the hope that there would be the largest possible input to the Forum, in particular, from Northern Ireland.

The following arrangements were agreed to:-

1. The title to be The New Ireland Forum.
2. The Chairman to be the President of University College, Galway, Dr. Colm Ó hEocha who has accepted the Chairmanship.
3. The membership of the Forum to be as follows:-

Fianna Fáil	9
Fine Gael	8
Labour	5
SDLP	5

There will be provision for alternates as follows:-

Fianna Fáil	4
Fine Gael	3
Labour	2
SDLP	5

4. The first meeting will be held in Dublin Castle at 2.30 p.m. on 30th May, 1983.
5. The Secretary to be the Clerk of the Senate, Mr John Tobin.

Ends.