



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
DUBLIN

EC AID

I ATTACH TWO DRAFT DOCUMENTS:-

- (1) THE PROPOSED SUMMARY PAPER WHICH WOULD GO AT POLITICAL LEVEL TO THE COMMISSION, AND
- (2) AN ALTERNATIVE TO YOUR SUGGESTION FOR A NOTE ON 'ELEMENTS OF A REGULATION'.

ON THE SECOND PAPER, OUR VIEW IS THAT IT MIGHT BE SENSIBLE TO CONFINE OURSELVES TO PRESENTING AN OUTLINE PROPOSAL RATHER THAN RUSH INTO PRODUCING TOO DETAILED A PAPER WHICH THE COMMISSION MIGHT USE AGAINST US AT A LATER DATE. WE CAN DISCUSS ON TUESDAY THE BEST WAY TO HANDLE THIS.

R Soesce

DRAFT

JOINT UK-IRISH APPROACH TO EUROPEAN COMMISSION

OUTLINE OF COVERING PAPER FROM THE TWO FOREIGN SECRETARIES TO THE
COMMISSION

INTRODUCTION

1. THE UNITED KINGDOM AND IRISH GOVERNMENTS REQUEST THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S POSITIVE SUPPORT FOR THEIR CO-OPERATIVE EFFORTS UNDER ARTICLE 1D(A) OF THE ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT 'TO PROMOTE THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THOSE AREAS OF BOTH PARTS OF IRELAND WHICH HAVE SUFFERED MOST SEVERELY FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE INSTABILITY OF RECENT YEARS'.
2. THE ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT, SIGNED ON 15 NOVEMBER 1985, HAS THE AIMS OF PROMOTING PEACE AND STABILITY IN NORTHERN IRELAND, HELPING TO RECONCILE THE TWO MAJOR TRADITIONS IN IRELAND, CREATING A NEW CLIMATE OF FRIENDSHIP AND CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF THE TWO COUNTRIES, AND IMPROVING CO-OPERATION IN COMBATING TERRORISM. IT CONSTITUTES, THEREFORE, A BRAVE AND IMAGINATIVE ATTEMPT TO TACKLE PROBLEMS OF CONSIDERABLE COMPLEXITY AND HISTORY.
3. THE TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN GREATLY ENCOURAGED BY THE EXTENT OF INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE AGREEMENT, INCLUDING SUPPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION, THEIR FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT.
4. THE COMMISSION AND THE PARLIAMENT HAVE ALWAYS TAKEN A CLOSE INTEREST IN THE PROBLEMS IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE COMMISSION HAS ALREADY PROVIDED CONSIDERABLE PRACTICAL HELP. IN PRESIDENT DELORES' STATEMENT OF 15 NOVEMBER 1985, HE PLEDGED 'THE CONTINUED WHOLE-HEARTED SUPPORT OF THE COMMISSION TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN IRELAND AND TO EFFECTIVE CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION'. THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN ITS MOTION OF () EXPRESSED THE BELIEF 'THAT THE AGREEMENT WILL HAVE ALL THE GREATER CHANCE OF SUCCESS IF IT IS UNDERPINNED BY A PROGRAMME OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY WHICH ARE BOTH A CONSEQUENCE OF, AND A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO, THE VIOLENCE'. IN HIS STATEMENT TO THE PARLIAMENT ON 20 FEBRUARY, PRESIDENT DELORES SAID THAT 'AT AN OPPORTUNE MOMENT, THE COMMISSION WILL MAKE A PROPOSAL TO SHOW ITS ATTACHMENT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF PEACE AND TO SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND'.

BACKGROUND

5. THE COMMISSION HAS ALREADY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT NORTHERN IRELAND IS ONE OF THE MOST DEPRIVED REGIONS IN THE COMMUNITY AS MEASURED BY A NUMBER OF INDICATORS OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEPRIVATION, INCLUDING VERY HIGH LEVELS OF UNEMPLOYMENT.
6. IT IS ALSO A REGION WHICH HAS SUFFERED GREIVIOUSLY FROM THE DISTURBANCES OF THE LAST 17 YEARS. OVER () PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED, SOME () HAVE BEEN INJURED AND OVER (£ M) OF DAMAGE HAS BEEN DONE TO PROPERTY. NEARLY EVERY FAMILY IN THE REGION HAS HAD A MEMBER OR CLOSE FRIEND WHO HAS BEEN DIRECTLY AFFECTED IN SOME WAY. NORTHERN IRELAND REMAINS TODAY A DEEPLY DIVIDED SOCIETY.
7. THE REST OF THE ISLAND OF IRELAND HAS ALSO SUFFERED FROM THE PROBLEMS IN NORTHERN IRELAND. ITS IMPORTANT TOURIST INDUSTRY HAS BEEN BADLY HARMED AND SUBSTANTIAL PUBLIC EXPENDITURE PROVISION HAS HAD TO BE DIVERTED TOWARDS IMPROVEMENTS IN POLICING AND SECURITY GENERALLY.
8. THE UK AND IRISH GOVERNMENTS CONTINUE TO PROMOTE POLICIES AND TO ALLOCATE SUBSTANTIAL SUMS OF MONEY WHICH ARE DESIGNED TO HELP TACKLE THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND IRELAND. THERE ARE WELL-FOUNDED ARRANGEMENTS FOR PLANNING PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AND FOR CREATION OF SOUNDER ECONOMIES AND LONG-TERM IMPROVEMENTS IN EMPLOYMENT LEVELS. THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY HAS ALREADY MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION, PARTICULARLY THROUGH THE STRUCTURAL FUNDS. IN NORTHERN IRELAND, THERE HAS BEEN THE ADDITIONAL BENEFITS FLOWING FROM THE SPECIAL URBAN RENEWAL REGULATION AND THE INTEGRATED OPERATIONS EXPERIMENT.
9. MAXIMUM USE IS BEING MADE OF THE EXISTING HELP AVAILABLE FROM THE COMMUNITY. APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS EXIST FOR THE NECESSARY CO-ORDINATION AND INTEGRATION OF ACTIVITIES FINANCED THROUGH PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AND BY THE COMMUNITY (AND THE PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL FUND BEING ESTABLISHED UNDER ARTICLE 10 OF THE ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT).
10. HOWEVER, GRAVE PROBLEMS REMAIN WHICH CANNOT BE TACKLED ADEQUATELY THROUGH THE EXISTING STRUCTURAL FUNDS AND THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE FROM PUBLIC EXPENDITURE. IN NORTHERN IRELAND MANY DIFFICULTIES EXIST IN THE AREAS OF URBAN AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (INCLUDING HOUSING), THE HEALTH AND WELFARE SECTOR, THE EDUCATION, SCIENCE, ARTS AND LIBRARIES SECTOR, AND OPERATIONS TO PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING AND RECONCILIATION. (IN IRELAND, THERE ARE SERIOUS UNMET NEEDS IN THE COUNTIES BORDERING NORTHERN IRELAND AND MORE GENERALLY BECAUSE OF THE DIVERSION OF RESOURCES TO TACKLING SECURITY MATTERS).
11. LONG-TERM ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN NORTHERN IRELAND DEPENDS UPON THE CREATION OF GREATER STABILITY IN THE AREA WHICH WILL MAKE IT MORE ATTRACTIVE TO OUTSIDE INVESTORS.

PROPOSAL FOR A SPECIAL MEASURE

12. THE UK AND IRISH GOVERNMENTS SEEK, THEREFORE, THE COMMISSION'S AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO A SPECIAL MEASURE UNDER A NEW BUDGET LINE TO PROVIDE 500M ECU OF ASSISTANCE OVER A 10-YEAR PERIOD, FOR A PROGRAMME OF RECONSTRUCTION AND RECONCILIATION.

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