



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

Reference Code:	2017/11/487
Creation Dates:	February 1987
Extent and medium:	1 page
Creator(s):	Department of the Taoiseach
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Northern Ireland

The Report of the New Ireland Forum agreed by the four main constitutional nationalist parties will form the basis of Fianna Fáil's position on Northern Ireland in Government.

Fianna Fáil remain firmly of the belief that a united Ireland brought about by democratic means forms the best and most durable basis for peace and stability in Ireland. In the words of the Forum Report, it would restore the historic integrity of Ireland, a concept that is also expressed in Articles 2 and 3 of the Constitution, and it would end divisions in the country, that are still imposing an enormous economic burden on the people of this State.

Fianna Fáil also believe that the framework for a solution involving all the parties must be created by the British and Irish Governments, as was implicit in the commencement of the Anglo-Irish process following the December 1980 Summit in Dublin Castle between the Taoiseach Mr Haughey and the British Prime Minister. Any final settlement must be preceded by an all-round constitutional conference, at which all the main parties are represented, and at which the totality of relationships between all parties of these islands can be discussed.

Fianna Fáil have consistently made it clear that it cannot accept the constitutional aspects of the Anglo-Irish Agreement of November 1985. It would however support any worthwhile reforms or improvement in the position of the Nationalist community that could be brought about through the Conference. Fianna Fáil are willing at any stage to hold discussions with the political representatives of any section of the population in Northern Ireland which may offer an opportunity for progress.

A Fianna Fáil Government are committed to seeking substantial reforms in the administration of justice, the security system, so that they can be seen as genuinely impartial and in relation to continuing serious discrimination in employment will seek a system of affirmative action.

Fianna Fáil in Government will actively support North-South economic co-operation, and seek to give it a more substantial character with particular regard to enhancing employment in both parts of the island.