

FROM PRESS OFFICE, STORMONT CASTLE

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FOLLOWING IS COMMUNIQUE ON TRIPARTITE TALKS ON COULD BE
IRELAND, FOR DISTRIBUTION AS ARRANGED:
COMMUNIQUE BEGINS:

POL HQ BELFAST
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CECOMMUNIQUE

1. THE CONFERENCE BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND IRISH GOVERNMENTS AND THE PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE NORTHERN IRELAND EXECUTIVE (DESIGNATE) MET AT SUNNINGDALE ON 6, 7, 8 AND 9 DECEMBER 1973.
2. DURING THE CONFERENCE, EACH DELEGATION STATED THEIR POSITION ON THE STATUS OF NORTHERN IRELAND.
3. THE TAOISEACH SAID THAT THE BASIC PRINCIPLE OF THE CONFERENCE WAS THAT THE PARTICIPANTS HAD TRIED TO SEE WHAT MEASURE OF AGREEMENT OF BENEFIT TO ALL THE PEOPLE CONCERNED COULD BE SECURED. IN DOING SO, ALL HAD REACHED ACCOMMODATION WITH ONE ANOTHER ON PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS. BUT NONE HAD COMPROMISED AND NONE HAD ASKED OTHERS TO COMPROMISE, IN RELATION TO BASIC ASPIRATIONS. THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC, TOGETHER WITH A MINORITY IN NORTHERN IRELAND AS REPRESENTED BY THE SDLP DELEGATION, CONTINUED TO UPHOLD THE ASPIRATION TOWARDS A UNITED IRELAND. THE ONLY UNITY THEY WANTED TO SEE WAS A UNITY ESTABLISHED BY CONSENT.
4. MR BRIAN FAULKNER SAID THAT DELEGATES FROM NORTHERN IRELAND CAME TO THE CONFERENCE AS REPRESENTATIVES OF APPARENTLY INCOMPATIBLE SETS OF POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS WHO HAD FOUND IT POSSIBLE TO REACH AGREEMENT TO JOIN TOGETHER IN GOVERNMENT BECAUSE EACH ACCEPTED THAT IN DOING SO THEY WERE NOT SACRIFICING PRINCIPLES OR ASPIRATIONS. THE DESIRE OF THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND TO REMAIN PART OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, AS REPRESENTED BY THE UNIONIST AND ALLIANCE DELEGATIONS, REMAINED FIRM.
5. THE IRISH GOVERNMENT FULLY ACCEPTED AND SOLEMNLY DECLARED THAT THERE COULD BE NO CHANGE IN THE STATUS OF NORTHERN IRELAND UNTIL A MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND DESIRED A CHANGE IN THAT STATUS.
- THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT SOLEMNLY DECLARED THAT IT WAS, AND WOULD REMAIN, THEIR POLICY TO SUPPORT THE WISHES OF THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND. THE PRESENT STATUS OF NORTHERN IRELAND IS THAT IT IS PART OF THE UNITED KINGDOM. IF IN THE FUTURE THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND SHOULD INDICATE A WISH TO BECOME PART OF A UNITED IRELAND, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WOULD SUPPORT THAT WISH.

IN PARTICULAR, THESE STUDIES WOULD BE DIRECTED TO IDENTIFYING,
FOR THE PURPOSES OF EXECUTIVE ACTION BY THE COUNCIL OF IRELAND,
SUITABLE ASPECTS OF ACTIVITIES IN THE FOLLOWING BROAD FIELDS:

A. EXPLOITATION, CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT;

B. AGRICULTURAL MATTERS (INCLUDING AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH,
ANIMAL HEALTH AND OPERATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURE
POLICY), FORESTRY AND FISHERIES;

C. CO-OPERATIVE VENTURES IN THE FIELDS OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY;

D. ELECTRICITY GENERATION;

E. TOURISM;

F. ROADS AND TRANSPORT;

G. ADVISORY SERVICES IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC HEALTH;

H. SPORT, CULTURE AND THE ARTS.

IT WOULD BE FOR THE CIREACHTAS AND THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
TO LEGISLATE FROM TIME TO TIME AS TO THE EXTENT OF FUNCTIONS TO
BE DEVOLVED TO THE COUNCIL OF IRELAND. WHERE NECESSARY, THE
BRITISH GOVERNMENT WILL CO-OPERATE IN THIS DEVOLUTION OF
FUNCTIONS. INITIALLY, THE FUNCTIONS TO BE VESTED WOULD BE
THOSE IDENTIFIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROCEDURES SET OUT ABOVE
AND DECIDED, AT THE FORMAL STAGE OF THE CONFERENCE, TO BE
TRANSFERRED.

9. (1) DURING THE INITIAL PERIOD FOLLOWING THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE COUNCIL, THE REVENUE OF THE COUNCIL WOULD BE PROVIDED
BY MEANS OF GRANTS FROM THE TWO ADMINISTRATIONS IN IRELAND
TOWARDS AGREED PROJECTS AND BUDGETS, ACCORDING TO THE NATURE
OF THE SERVICE INVOLVED.

(II) IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT FURTHER STUDIES WOULD BE PUT
IN HAND FORTHWITH AND COMPLETED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OF
METHODS OF FINANCING THE COUNCIL AFTER THE INITIAL PERIOD
WHICH WOULD BE CONSONANT WITH THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND
FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED TO IT.

(III) IT WAS AGREED THAT THE COST OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE
COUNCIL OF IRELAND WOULD BE SHARED EQUALLY, AND OTHER
SERVICES WOULD BE FINANCED BROADLY IN PROPORTION TO WHERE
EXPENDITURE OR BENEFIT ACCRUES.

(IV) THE AMOUNT OF MONEY REQUIRED TO FINANCE THE COUNCIL'S
ACTIVITIES WILL DEPEND UPON THE FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED TO IT
FROM TIME TO TIME.

(V) WHILE BRITAIN CONTINUES TO PAY SUBSIDIES TO NORTHERN
IRELAND, SUCH PAYMENTS WOULD NOT INVOLVE BRITAIN PARTICIPATING
IN THE COUNCIL, IT BEING ACCEPTED NEVERTHELESS THAT IT WOULD
BE LEGITIMATE FOR BRITAIN TO SAFEGUARD IN AN APPROPRIATE
WAY HER FINANCIAL INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

10. IT WAS AGREED BY ALL PARTIES THAT PERSONS COMMITTING CRIMES
OF VIOLENCE, HOWEVER MOTIVATED, IN ANY PART OF IRELAND SHOULD BE
BROUGHT TO TRIAL IRRESPECTIVE OF THE PART OF IRELAND IN WHICH
THEY ARE LOCATED. THE CONCERN WHICH LARGE SECTIONS OF THE PEOPLE
OF NORTHERN IRELAND FELT ABOUT THIS PROBLEM WAS IN PARTICULAR
FORCIBLY EXPRESSED BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNIONIST AND
ALIANCE PARTIES. THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE IRISH GOVERNMENT
STATED THAT THEY UNDERSTOOD AND FULLY SHARED THIS CONCERN.
THEM WERE THE ADOPTION OF LEGISLATION OPERATING IN THE TWO
JURISDICTIONS ON EXTRADITION, THE CREATION OF A COMMON LAW
JURISDICTION AREA IN WHICH AN ALL-IRELAND COURT WOULD HAVE
JURISDICTION, AND THE EXTENSION OF THE JURISDICTION OF BRITISH
COURTS SO AS TO ENABLE THEM TO TRY OFFENCES COMMITTED OUTSIDE

IN PARTICULAR, THESE STUDIES WOULD BE DIRECTED BY THE COUNCIL FOR THE PURPOSES OF EXECUTIVE ACTION BY THE COUNCIL OF IRELAND, SUFFICIENT REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- A. EXPLOITATION, CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT;
- B. AGRICULTURAL MATTERS (INCLUDING AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, ANIMAL HEALTH AND OPERATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURE POLICY), FORESTRY AND FISHERIES;
- C. CO-OPERATIVE VENTURES IN THE FIELDS OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY;
- D. ELECTRICITY GENERATION;
- E. TOURISM;
- F. ROADS AND TRANSPORT;
- G. ADVISORY SERVICES IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC HEALTH;
- H. SPORT, CULTURE AND THE ARTS.

IT WOULD BE FOR THE CIRREACHTAS AND THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY TO LEGISLATE FROM TIME TO TIME AS TO THE EXTENT OF FUNCTIONS TO BE DEVOLVED TO THE COUNCIL OF IRELAND. WHERE NECESSARY, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WILL CO-OPERATE IN THIS DEVOLUTION OF FUNCTIONS. INITIALLY, THE FUNCTIONS TO BE VESTED WOULD BE THOSE IDENTIFIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROCEDURES SET OUT ABOVE AND DECIDED, AT THE FORMAL STAGE OF THE CONFERENCE, TO BE TRANSFERRED.

9. (I) DURING THE INITIAL PERIOD FOLLOWING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COUNCIL, THE REVENUE OF THE COUNCIL WOULD BE PROVIDED BY MEANS OF GRANTS FROM THE TWO ADMINISTRATIONS IN IRELAND TOWARDS AGREED PROJECTS AND BUDGETS, ACCORDING TO THE NATURE OF THE SERVICE INVOLVED.
(II) IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT FURTHER STUDIES WOULD BE PUT IN HAND FORTHWITH AND COMPLETED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OF METHODS OF FINANCING THE COUNCIL AFTER THE INITIAL PERIOD WHICH WOULD BE CONSONANT WITH THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED TO IT.
(III) IT WAS AGREED THAT THE COST OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE COUNCIL OF IRELAND WOULD BE SHARED EQUALLY, AND OTHER SERVICES WOULD BE FINANCED BROADLY IN PROPORTION TO WHERE EXPENDITURE OR BENEFIT ACCRUES.
(IV) THE AMOUNT OF MONEY REQUIRED TO FINANCE THE COUNCIL'S ACTIVITIES WILL DEPEND UPON THE FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED TO IT FROM TIME TO TIME.
(V) WHILE BRITAIN CONTINUES TO PAY SUBSIDIES TO NORTHERN IRELAND, SUCH PAYMENTS WOULD NOT INVOLVE BRITISH PARTICIPATING IN THE COUNCIL, IT BEING ACCEPTED NEVERTHELESS THAT IT WOULD BE LEGITIMATE FOR BRITAIN TO SAFEGUARD IN AN APPROPRIATE WAY HER FINANCIAL INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

10. IT WAS AGREED BY ALL PARTIES THAT PERSONS COMMITTING CRIMES OF VIOLENCE, WHOMEVER MOTIVATED, IN ANY PART OF IRELAND SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL IRRESPECTIVE OF THE PART OF IRELAND IN WHICH THEY ARE LOCATED. THE CONCERN WHICH LARGE SECTIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND FELT ABOUT THIS PROBLEM WAS IN PARTICULAR, FORGULLY EXPRESSED BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNIONIST AND ALLIANCE PARTIES. THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE IRISH GOVERNMENT STATED THAT THEY UNDERSTOOD AND FULLY SHARED THIS CONCERN. DIFFERENT WAYS OF SOLVING THIS PROBLEM WERE DISCUSSED; AMONG THEM WERE THE AMENDMENT OF LEGISLATION OPERATING IN THE TWO JURISDICTIONS ON EXTRADITION, THE CREATION OF A COMMON LAW ENFORCEMENT AREA IN WHICH AN ALL-IRELAND COURT WOULD HAVE JURISDICTION, AND THE EXTENSION OF THE JURISDICTION OF DOMESTIC COURTS SO AS TO ENABLE THEM TO TRY OFFENCES COMMITTED OUTSIDE

IT WAS AGREED THAT THE TWO PARTS OF IRELAND SHOULD HAVE EQUAL POLITICAL STATUS AND THAT THE BRITISH AND IRISH GOVERNMENTS WOULD JOINTLY SET UP A CONFERENCE TO CONSIDER ALL THE LEGAL POWERS AT THEIR DISPOSSESSION TO ENFORCE AN INDEPENDENT POLITICAL POLICY. IT WAS AGREED THAT EFFECTIVE MEANS OF DEALING WITH THOSE WHO COMMIT CRIMES AGAINST THE IRISH GOVERNMENT DEDICATE TO TAKE IMMEDIATE AND EFFECTIVE LEGAL STEPS SO THAT PERSONS COMING WITHIN THEIR JURISDICTION WHO ACCUSED OF HAVING NEVER RETRACTED, COMMITTED IN NORTHERN IRELAND WILL BE DULY TRIED, AND IT WAS AGREED THAT ANY SIMILAR RECIPROCAL STEP THAT MAY BE NEEDED IN NORTHERN IRELAND BE TAKEN BY THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES.

IT WAS AGREED THAT THE COUNCIL WOULD BE INVITED TO CONSIDER WHAT WAY THE PRINCIPLES OF THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS WOULD BE EXERCISED IN DOMESTIC LEGISLATION IN EACH PART OF IRELAND. IT WOULD RECOMMEND WHETHER OTHER LEGISLATION OR THE CREATION OF OTHER INSTITUTIONS, ADMINISTRATIVE OR JUDICIAL, IS REQUIRED IN EITHER PART OR SPANNING THE WHOLE ISLAND TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL PROTECTION IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS. SUCH RECOMMENDATIONS COULD INCLUDE THE FUNCTIONS OF AN OMBUDSMAN OR COMMISSIONER FOR COMPLAINTS, OTHER ARRANGEMENTS OF A SIMILAR NATURE WHICH THE COUNCIL OF IRELAND MIGHT THINK APPROPRIATE.

THE CONFERENCE ALSO DISCUSSED THE QUESTION OF POLICING AND THE NEED TO ENSURE PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR AND IDENTIFICATION WITH THE POLICE SERVICE THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE COMMUNITY. IT WAS AGREED THAT NO SINGLE SET OF PROPOSALS WOULD ACHIEVE THESE AIMS OVERNIGHT, SO THAT TIME WOULD BE NECESSARY. THE CONFERENCE EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT THE WIDE RANGE OF AGREEMENT THAT HAD BEEN REACHED, AND THE CONSEQUENT FORMATION OF A POWER-SHARING EXECUTIVE, WOULD BE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE CREATION OF AN ATMOSPHERE THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY WHERE THERE WOULD BE WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FOR AN IDENTIFICATION WITH ALL THE INSTITUTIONS OF NORTHERN IRELAND.

IT WAS BROADLY ACCEPTED THAT THE TWO PARTS OF IRELAND ARE TO A CONSIDERABLE EXTENT INTER-DEPENDENT IN THE WHOLE FIELD OF LAW AND ORDER, AND THAT THE PROBLEMS OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND IDENTIFICATION WITH THE POLICE SERVICE CANNOT BE SOLVED WITHOUT TAKING ACCOUNT OF THAT FACT. (IN LINE ABOVE "POLICY" SHOULD READ "POLICE")

ACCORDINGLY, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT STATED THAT, AS SOON AS THE SECURITY PROBLEMS WERE RESOLVED AND THE NEW INSTITUTIONS ARE SEEN TO BE WORKING EFFECTIVELY, THEY WOULD WISH TO DISCUSS THE DEVOLUTION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR NORMAL POLICING AND HOW THIS MIGHT BE ACHIEVED WITH THE NORTHERN IRELAND EXECUTIVE AND THE POLICE.

WITH A VIEW TO IMPROVING POLICING THROUGHOUT THE ISLAND AND DEVELOPING COMMUNITY IDENTIFICATION WITH AND SUPPORT FOR THE POLICE SERVICES, THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED WILL CO-OPERATE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF A COUNCIL OF IRELAND THROUGH THEIR RESPECTIVE POLICE AUTHORITIES. TO THIS END, THE IRISH GOVERNMENT WOULD SET UP A POLICE AUTHORITY, APPOINTMENTS TO WHICH WOULD BE MADE AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE COUNCIL OF IRELAND. IN THE CASE OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICE AUTHORITY, APPOINTMENTS WOULD BE MADE AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE NORTHERN IRELAND EXECUTIVE, WHICH WOULD CONSULT WITH THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE COUNCIL OF IRELAND. WHEN THE TWO POLICE AUTHORITIES ARE CONSTITUTED, THEY WILL MAKE THEIR OWN ARRANGEMENTS TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES SET OUT ABOVE.

AN INDEPENDENT COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE FOR DEALING WITH COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE WILL BE SET UP.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND WILL SET UP AN IN-PARTY COMMITTEE FROM THE ASSEMBLY TO EXAMINE HOW BEST TO PROVIDE EFFECTIVE POLICING THROUGHOUT NORTHERN IRELAND WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE NEED TO ACHIEVE PUBLIC IDENTIFICATION WITH THE POLICE.

THE CONFERENCE TOOK NOTE OF A REAFFIRMATION BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT OF THEIR FIRM COMMITMENT TO BRING DETENTION TO AN END IN NORTHERN IRELAND FOR ALL SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY AS SOON AS THE SECURITY SITUATION PERMITS, AND NOTED ALSO THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND HOPES TO BE ABLE TO BRING INTO USE HIS STATUTORY POWERS OF SELECTIVE RELEASE IN TIME FOR A NUMBER OF DETAINEES TO BE RELEASED BEFORE CHRISTMAS.

19. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT STATED THAT, IN THE LIGHT OF THE DECISIONS REACHED AT THE CONFERENCE, THEY WOULD NOW SEEK THE AUTHORITY OF PARLIAMENT TO DEVOLVE FULL POWERS TO THE NORTHERN IRELAND EXECUTIVE AND NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE FORMAL APPOINTMENT OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND EXECUTIVE WOULD THEN BE MADE.

20. THE CONFERENCE AGREED THAT A FORMAL CONFERENCE WOULD BE HELD EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR AT WHICH THE BRITISH AND IRISH GOVERNMENTS AND THE NORTHERN IRELAND EXECUTIVE WOULD MEET TOGETHER TO CONSIDER REPORTS ON THE STUDIES WHICH HAVE BEEN COMMISSIONED AND TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT REACHED.

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