

PUS/

- 8 MAY 1978

N.I.O. BELFAST

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UNCLASSIFIED

TO IMMEDIATE ECO TELNO 141 OF 5 MAY  
INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, NIO BELFAST, MODUK  
PRIORITY HOLY-SEE

MINISTERIAL MEETING DUBLIN 5 MAY.  
COMMUNIQUE

1. THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND, THE RT HON ROY MASON MP, AND THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF IRELAND, MR MICHAEL O'KENNEDY TD, MET TODAY FOR DISCUSSIONS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN DUBLIN. THE MEETING WAS ONE OF A SERIES OF REGULAR CONTACTS ESTABLISHED BY THE BRITISH AND IRISH GOVERNMENTS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. MR MASON WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE MINISTER OF STATE AT THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE, MR FRANK JUDD MP. MR O'KENNEDY WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE MINISTER OF STATE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MR DAVID ANDREWS TD, AND THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE, MR G COLLINS TD, AND MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, DR M O'DONOGHUE TD, ALSO TOOK PART IN THE TALKS.

2. THE DISCUSSION, WHICH LASTED 4 AND A HALF HOURS, COVERED A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS INCLUDING THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND, SECURITY CO-OPERATION, ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION.

3. IT WAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WAS A DIFFERENCE OF APPROACH BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND IRISH GOVERNMENTS TOWARDS SEEKING A BASIS FOR LONG TERM LASTING PEACE AND STABILITY IN NORTHERN IRELAND. MINISTERS WERE, HOWEVER, IN COMPLETE ACCORD ABOUT THE NEED TO MAKE POLITICAL PROGRESS IN THE SHORT TERM AND AGREED TO ENCOURAGE THE POLITICAL PARTIES IN NORTHERN IRELAND TO COME TOGETHER IN A SYSTEM OF DEVOLVED GOVERNMENT BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF PARTNERSHIP WHICH BOTH SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY COULD SUPPORT AND SUSTAIN. IT WAS ACCEPTED THAT POLITICAL PROGRESS IN NORTHERN IRELAND REQUIRED THAT THE POLITICAL PARTIES THERE ACCEPT THAT THIS WAS THE WAY FORWARD AND WORK TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE IT.

PRIVATE OFFICE

PUS

MR PRITCHARD *Harrigan*

MR FORD

MR STEPHENS

MR GILLILAND

MR BUXTON

MR NEILSON

LIAISON

RUC

Rec'd on 8.5.78

*PS*

4. ON SECURITY IT WAS AGREED THAT THE BRITISH AND IRISH GOVERNMENTS WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER, EXCHANGE INFORMATION AND CO-ORDINATE THEIR EFFORTS TO ENSURE THE MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY OF THE COMMON FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM. THE MINISTERS NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THE EFFECTIVE AND CONSTANTLY DEVELOPING CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE GARDAI AND THE RUC.

5. THE MINISTERS RECEIVED AND ENDORSED THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REPORTS OF THE STEERING GROUP SET UP, FOLLOWING THE MEETING IN SEPTEMBER 1977 BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE TAOISEACH, TO REVIEW THE ARRANGEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO NORTHERN IRELAND.

6. THE REPORTS, WHICH WILL BE MADE PUBLIC SHORTLY, REVIEW THE EXTENSIVE ECONOMIC CONTACTS WHICH EXIST AT PRESENT, IDENTIFY AREAS WHERE CO-OPERATION COULD BE IMPROVED AND RECOMMEND SPECIFIC PROJECTS FOR DETAILED STUDIES.

7. THE MINISTERS ANNOUNCED THAT THERE WOULD BE AN EARLY APPLICATION FOR EEC FUNDS WITH A VIEW TO STARTING A STUDY OF THE ERNE CATCHMENT AREA. THE STUDY WAS A MAJOR PROPOSAL CONTAINED IN THE REPORT AND FOLLOWED AN INITIATIVE BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER. CONSULTANTS WOULD BE EMPLOYED TO ASSESS AND REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL OF THE ERNE CATCHMENT AREA WITH REFERENCE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM AMENITIES IN MATTERS SUCH AS ACCOMMODATION, ACCESS AND MARKETING AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF LAND RESOURCES THROUGH ARTERIAL DRAINAGE.

8. IT WAS ALSO AGREED BY MINISTERS THAT THE JOINT STEERING GROUP WOULD MEET LATER THIS YEAR TO REVIEW PROGRESS ON ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION GENERALLY.

9. THE MINISTERS AGREED THAT THE DISCUSSION HAD PROVIDED A USEFUL OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON MATTERS OF SHORT AND LONG TERM INTEREST AND THAT THEY WOULD MAINTAIN CONTACT ON THESE MATTERS AND MEET AGAIN AS NECESSARY.

HAYDON

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SENT AT 08/0954Z JD  
RECD AT 08/0954Z KK