

COVERING CONFIDENTIAL

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FROM: DAVID KYLE
2 April 1993

DK/17243/93/HC

- cc PS/Mr Mates (B&L) B
- PS/Mr Hanley (B&L) B
- PS/Mr Atkins (DED&L) B
- PS/PUS (B&L) B
- PS/Mr Fell B
- Mr Ledlie B
- Mr Thomas B
- Mr Williams B
- cc *Mr Loughran* Mr Steele B
- Mr Gibson* Mr Shannon B
- Mr Bell B
- Mr R Spence (DED) B
- Mr Watkins B
- + file* Mr Lyon B
- Mr Wood (B&L) B
- Mr Cooke B
- Mr Maxwell B
- Mr Gamble (DED) B
- Mr Leach B
- Mr Marsh B
- Mr D J R Hill B
- Mr J Stephens B
- Mr Petch B
- Dr Power B
- Mr Maccabe B
- Mr Brooker B
- Ms Lodge B
- Mr Perry B
- Mr Maitland B
- Mr Whysall B
- Mr Archer, RID B
- HMA, Dublin B
- Miss Neville-Jones, Cab Office
- Mr Griggs, Cab Office
- Mr Nicolas Bevan, Cab Office
- Mr Jonathan Powell, Washington
- Chief Constable, RUCHQ



PS/SECRETARY OF STATE (L&B) - B

INTERNAL PLENARY RECORD OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE HELD IN BELFAST ON 23 MARCH 1993 - IC(93)2

I now attach the final version of the Internal Plenary record of the Intergovernmental Conference held in Belfast on 23 March 1993.

[Signed]

DAVID KYLE

COVERING CONFIDENTIAL

INTERNAL PLENARY RECORD OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE
HELD IN BELFAST ON 23 MARCH 1993

PresentBritish Side

Secretary of State
Mr Mates
Mr Atkins*
Mr Hanley

Officials

PUS
Mr Fell
Chief Constable
Mr Thomas
Mr Ledlie
Mr Williams
Mr Bell
Mr Dodds
Mr Cooke
Mr Archer
Mr Kyle

In Attendance

Mr Fittall
Mr Dew
Chief Supt Sillery
Mr Spence*
Mr Gamble*

Irish Side

Minister Spring
Minister Geoghegan-Quinn
Minister McCreevy*

Officials

Mr Dalton
Garda Commissioner
Mr S O hUiginn
Mr O'Donovan
Mr C O hUiginn
Mr Donoghue
Mr Hennessy
Mr Hickey
Mr O'Brien
Mr Farrell

In Attendance

Mr O Riordain
Mr Power*
Mrs Hayes*

* Attended for part of Plenary Session

1. The Plenary Session began at 0955 hours and ended at 1140 hours. The Ministerial tête-a-tête had taken place between 0835 and 0905 hours, and the Restricted Security Session between 0905 and 0955 hours.

2. The Secretary of State welcomed Irish Ministers and officials to the meeting of the Conference in Belfast. Before addressing the Agenda proper, the Secretary of State referred to Irish suggestions that they might send a representative to the funeral of the 3 year old boy killed in the recent terrorist attack in Warrington. He said that the Prime Minister greatly appreciated the sentiment behind this suggestion and that the feeling of the British Government was that the wishes of the family should predominate in these circumstances. The Secretary of State explained that the British Government were using the channel of the local MP to clarify the wishes of the family.

REVIEW OF POLITICAL SITUATION

3. The Secretary of State said that he believed that the Tánaiste's recent speech had made a great impression and that, in time, this fine speech would be seen as forming a watershed. It was regrettable that it had received a negative reception from unionist politicians but he believed that a distinction should be made between the leaders of political parties and those who voted for them. The Secretary of State explained that his own perception was that the general public had a strong desire to see the Talks re-commence; during his recent walk-about people had acknowledged that compromise was necessary. It was clear that the public were in favour of a resumption of the Talks process but the forthcoming local government elections meant that unionist politicians were concentrating their energies in that direction; consequently they appeared to be prepared to set aside the opportunity to make progress in other areas. The Secretary of State reaffirmed that both the British and the Irish Governments wanted the Talks to resume at the earliest practicable moment and he hoped that the rank and file in the community would make their views known to the party leaderships.

4. The Secretary of State took the view that both Governments should continue to express their hopes for the Talks but added that, in all honesty, he did not believe that much would happen before the local government elections. It might be better, therefore, to address how the process should proceed once the local government elections were out of the way. He expressed appreciation for the Taoiseach's intervention with President Clinton during his recent visit to America saying that the expressions of support for the Talks process had been very helpful. The Secretary of State made reference to Mr Molyneaux's rather negative speech to members of the UUP the previous weekend but added that he believed that the speech repaid careful reading; it seemed that the UUP leader had not closed the door or painted himself into a corner. The Secretary of State believed that Mr Molyneaux did not see the Talks process as having ended in November 1992. Referring to the DUP, the Secretary of State said that once the local government elections were out of the way he hoped it would be possible for the DUP to rejoin the process as effective participants. There was a benign element in the party, in the form of Peter Robinson, but he seemed unable to deliver the Paisley element. He suggested that the Irish might concentrate on how they could best lure Mr Molyneaux out into open ground. In noting Irish comments made about Articles 2 and 3, he added that it might be helpful to the Irish approach if they sent a letter to the UUP leader, in confidence, saying that they would be happy to clarify their position and seek to clear any obstacles to further

progress. The Secretary of State could not be sure what the response might be, but he did not believe it would be harmful and he was sure that Mr Molyneaux would respect the confidence.

5. The Tánaiste expressed his gratitude for the Secretary of State's remarks about his speech and emphasised that he had set out to be helpful and to assure unionists of the good faith of Dublin. He realised that there were difficulties in the context of the local government elections in Northern Ireland but, nevertheless, he expressed disappointment with the response of Ken Maginnis. He was conscious that people in the Republic were beginning to question his approach by saying what more can you say or do at this stage. The Tánaiste said that, reluctantly, he realised that further developments would not happen until after the local elections. In the meantime, he believed that the two Governments should show that they could get on with other aspects of their work, particularly in the economic and social field; in the absence of developments in other areas they could show that these elements could continue to work. The Irish side had not detected any impression that Mr Molyneaux wanted a letter and, in expressing their anxieties, they indicated that if they had had some signal from Mr Molyneaux that he would respond, then they would be prepared to write. The Tánaiste said that even if the confidence of the correspondence was to be respected there was the problem of how to deal with a refusal.

6. The Secretary of State said that he believed Mr Maginnis was covering his back, particularly as he had received 'stick' from within the party because of his forward position during the Talks process last year. He agreed with the Tánaiste's assessment that Mr Molyneaux did not want a letter at this stage. Mr Hanley commented that he believed that Mr Maginnis' comments reflected a desire to keep his own options open, and he added that the success of getting Unionists to go to Dublin was due largely to Mr Maginnis' work. Mr Hanley said that he endorsed the Secretary of State's comments regarding a letter to Mr Molyneaux; he did not believe that the UUP leader would break confidences but the way he was approached mattered a great deal. It was important to establish the Tánaiste's credentials and personality to help start the Talks; the impetus arising from the recent terrorist attack in Warrington, and the Taoiseach's work in the United States, were all pointing in the direction of a re-start of the Talks process. Mr Hanley perceived pressure from the public that all sides should compromise and people in the community were keen to see the two Governments work to get the Talks re-started. He cautioned against bringing unfair pressure to bear on the local political parties.

7. The Tánaiste assured the Conference that the Irish side wished to do anything helpful which they could and he confirmed that the recent meeting which he had had with the Alliance Party had been useful and positive. The Secretary of State said it had been mildly encouraging that the UUP had been careful to avoid any definitive statement regarding the Tánaiste's speech. Mr Hanley said that in the weeks to come both Governments would have to make speeches and he said that they must be careful not to overreact to their content; what both Governments were about was investigating different ways of casting the fly so as to get the fish to bite. The Tánaiste wondered if it was helpful, or constructive, at this stage to make speeches; there were many other things the two Governments could be dealing with on a day-to-day basis, and some things they could simply park for the moment whilst they got on with other areas of work. Mr Hanley expressed some concern lest the two Governments should be seen to be creating a vacuum with nothing actually happening. The Secretary of State recalled that his Coleraine speech had been examined in a detailed manner and that elaborate constructions, bearing no relation to reality, had been placed upon it. He had been seen as alienating unionists and having a love affair with Sinn Fein. He believed there was a lesson to be learned on how construction and comments on speeches could develop. He thought there was an argument for 'laying off' speeches for the moment and enquired from the Irish side if they would be taking an opportunity to flesh out their concept of the 'covenant'. He said that to unionists this idea could be seen as talking about a United Ireland. The Tánaiste replied that he could take an opportunity to develop this idea and, in essence, he was suggesting that discussions could take place at any stage about specific agreements to protect the position of minorities.

8. The Tánaiste concluded the political development section by saying that, following the Taoiseach's visit to Washington, he believed that there were now good relationships between not only the Taoiseach and the Prime Minister, but also the Taoiseach and the President of the United States.

CONFIDENCE ISSUES

9. The Secretary of State said that there had been a constructive meeting of the Confidence Issues Steering Group on 12 March. He suggested that the Conference might ask Mr Ledlie and Mr O hUiginn to report on developments arising from the meeting. Mr Ledlie said that they had had a successful and enjoyable meeting, and that a carefully prepared agenda had enabled the meeting to move away from the day-to-day confidence matters to look at underlying issues and principles. This had been helpful and beneficial and he had

appreciated the atmosphere in which the discussions had been conducted - often on quite sensitive and difficult matters.

10. Mr Ledlie went on to say that the discussion had focussed on three main areas. He had given an update on the various social surveys currently in hand and included in these surveys were two particular pieces of work that had relevance to the confidence Agenda. The Social Attitudes Survey extended to Northern Ireland in 1989 and based on the experience and approach developed in Great Britain for the British Social Attitudes Survey. The Community Attitudes Survey had the specific objective of providing an objective assessment of public perceptions of security policies and attitudes towards the Security Forces. It was believed that as and when reliable data began to emerge, probably towards the end of this year, the information acquired would provide a good barometer of public opinion in this very important and sensitive area.

11. Mr Ledlie explained that the meeting had gone on to discuss confidence building amongst the nationalist community. The British side had emphasised that this was an area which the Secretary of State, the Northern Ireland Office, as well as the Police and Army, took very seriously indeed and, in recognising that some progress had been made, also acknowledged that there were still significant problems to be overcome. It was explained that it was all too easy for the introduction of increased security measures, in order to assist the security forces in inhibiting or apprehending terrorists, to irritate or even antagonise people in the community. At the same time it had to be noted that operational effectiveness of the security forces - in dealing with paramilitaries from whatever quarter - was perhaps the single biggest confidence builder.

12. Mr Ledlie said that the meeting had had a useful exchange of views on the question of current loyalist attitudes and thinking and on the issue of how to maintain confidence in the loyalist community at this difficult time. No one would thank the Northern Ireland Office, whether in Northern Ireland or in Dublin or in London, if decisions were taken that could give rise to major community turbulence - let alone sectarian or paramilitary violence. There was clearly a question of keeping a balance. Mr Ledlie concluded by saying that the Irish side had shown understanding and sympathy on the problems as well as discussing the historical background of certain entrenched views in the loyalist community. The meeting had agreed that it was necessary to take an opportunity to stand back and consider underlying issues, tensions and concerns in a measured way and Mr Ledlie said that he looked forward to the next meeting - either in the summer or autumn of this year - when the results of the survey material would be available.

13. Mr O hUiginn explained that for their part the Irish side believed that the issue of confidence matter was of central importance and that it should not be seen as in conflict with security measures, they were complementary to one another. Any procedures introduced must be seen to bring results and he believed that the recent surveys were a reliable indicator of opinion. He said that the Confidence Issues Steering Group had discussed the question of regional variations noting that some areas were relatively free of problems. He believed that this could be very instructive and an examination to show how there were problems in some areas, but not in others, could be very useful; the behaviour of local security force commanders could be important. In referring to the problem of loyalist violence Mr O hUiginn said that a distinction had to be made between those areas where there was a justified basis for concern, and those where it was simply a reaction to a dismantling of existing privileges. Loyalist reaction could not be allowed to disrupt the agenda for ensuring equality between the communities. He also emphasised that it was important to have the opportunity of the Confidence Issues Steering Group to look at matters generally rather than addressing the day-to-day business of confidence issues.

14. The Tánaiste thanked the two officials for their reports; he believed that the good work of the Committee should continue and he expressed an interest in the question of regional variations in the level of confidence in the security forces. The Secretary of State expressed himself content with the meeting of the Committee.

LETHAL FORCE

15. The Secretary of State said that the Working Group set up to look at the issue of lethal force was getting on with its work. It had commissioned a series of papers to look at a number of themes: confidence and operational aspects of the issue; proposals for changes to the law; other non-legislative changes in guidance and practice; and changes in follow-up procedures. The Tánaiste said it was important for the group to get on with its work urgently and he asked about the position on terms of reference, adding that the Irish side had submitted a paper with their thoughts in 1991. Mr Ledlie said he appreciated the Irish interest in the issue and in relation to the terms of reference he said the areas of study broke down broadly into the four areas already identified. Work on the preparation of papers on these issues was in hand and he envisaged a further meeting with the Irish side in a few months time, once the Working Group had had time to consider the papers; probably in the summertime. He assured the Irish side that their own paper had been taken into account. The Tánaiste said that he understood the

complexity and sensitivity of the issues involved and added that it was important to be seen to be working on the matter. The Secretary of State assured the Tánaiste that he was aware of the sense of urgency and that he was anxious that the Group should get on with the work.

CROSS BORDER ROAD CLOSURES

16. The Secretary of State recounted that exchanges on this issue had taken place in the Restricted Session and he asked Mr Mates to summarise on these discussions. Mr Mates said that there was disappointment on both sides that they had not been able to reach an accommodation regarding BCP 108 but they were determined to continue to seek ways of minimising the disruption, in social and economic terms, arising from the closure of cross border roads. He went on to explain that the British side intended to set up a research project, perhaps involving independent consultants, to look at the issue and report back. He explained that this would provide a tool for measuring where the balance of advantage lay, but it had to be borne in mind that security came first. He said that the Irish side had responded warmly to this idea and had expressed a desire to be involved in the work; it had been proposed that the Secretariat should take this forward. Mr Mates added that a research project such as this should mean that perceptions could be recorded in a more sophisticated manner.

17. Mrs Geoghegan-Quinn said that she had visited BCP 108 and had received representations from members of the local community, people who were clearly not involved with terrorism. There was great economic inconvenience and she was anxious that the two Governments should be seen to take the initiative from PIRA. It was important that the Garda should not be hampered in their activities. There was a real risk that any perceived co-operation in the closure of roads could hinder the collection of information on the Southern side. She expressed the hope that the Secretariat could get to grips with the proposals and she confirmed that the Irish side were more than happy to co-operate. Mrs Geoghegan-Quinn said that while she would not dispute the Chief Constable's advice to the British side on the value of Permanent Vehicle Check Points, the advice from the Garda Commissioner was that it was better to use mobile patrols as opposed to having a fixed checkpoint.

18. The Secretary of State passed on the British side's congratulations on the recent finds of arms and explosives in the Republic and said that these successes reflected not only skill and dedication, but also hard work on the part of the Garda; such finds must be a source of pride to the people in the Republic as well as a

matter for relief to the people in Northern Ireland. The Tánaiste said that there was an urgent need to address the problem of cross border roads, he would not like it to become an issue in which the initiative could be taken from constitutional politicians. He added that in regard to the proposed survey he hoped that it could be done confidentially and as quickly as possible. Mr O'Donovan explained that the matter had already been discussed in recent meetings at the Secretariat, when the political, economic and social factors had been highlighted; he noted that the security aspects would continue to be a matter for the two police chiefs. He enquired as to a time frame for a report. Mr Mates replied that as soon as the terms of reference could be worked out the Northern Ireland Office would get on with the job of appointing independent consultants and it would be a matter for them as to how they took it forward. The important point was that such an examination had to be thorough and extensive, and operate in both the Republic of Ireland and in Northern Ireland. The work would be undertaken by independent consultants, without any political views being brought to bear on the research.

CONVICTIONS OF KANE, TIMMONS AND KELLY

19. The Secretary of State explained that these convictions arose from the attacks on two Corporals in the course of a funeral in West Belfast in 1988. He had received a letter from Kevin McNamara, as well as correspondence from other interested parties, asking him to use his discretionary powers to refer these cases back to the Court of Appeal. The Secretary of State outlined the criteria that normally had to be met in order for such a reference to be made: there must be some new evidence or other consideration of substance which had not previously been before courts and which appeared to cast doubt on the safety of the conviction.

20. The Secretary of State went on to explain that the trial judge had been criticised for allegedly extending the application of the doctrine of common purpose and that this was in contrast with the outcome of the case of the taxi driver who owned, and drove, the taxi in which the two soldiers were taken to where they were shot. It has also been a point of concern that the judges took insufficient account of the general chaos, confusion and hysteria which prevailed following the murders, a few days earlier, in Milltown Cemetery. The Secretary of State made clear that it was a matter for the Courts to determine on points of law and he noted, that in the application to the Court of Appeal, Leading Counsel for the defence had accepted the doctrine of the law on common purpose and that there had been no appeal to the House of Lords on those grounds. The Secretary of State emphasised that he had to look at this matter judicially and he compared it with the recent

controversy over Latimer, the one member of the UDR Four whose appeal had been turned down, while his three colleagues had been released. It was important that all such cases were looked at scrupulously to establish if the relevant criteria were met.

21. The Tánaiste said that he recalled the horrific murders of the two Corporals and it was important that the people responsible should be brought to justice; he understood that the two individuals who actually shot the Corporals had never been caught. He went on to say that there was very widespread concern about the murder convictions handed down to Kane, Timmons and Kelly and that a number of groups had voiced their concern on those convictions. There was also uneasiness at the apparent discrepancy of approach, compared with other trials which had taken place, and which were connected with this incident. There was growing interest in the case, a PQ had been answered in the Dail recently. The Tánaiste confirmed that earlier in the month he had met with relatives of the two men along with the local MP Joe Hendron. He agreed that it was a difficult area and took the view that in a case of such concern all the circumstances should be looked at very carefully.

22. The Secretary of State thanked the Tánaiste for his understanding on the matter and commented that the horrific circumstances of the attack were not relevant as to how the law was actually applied; what mattered was, was there new material? Kane's application for leave to appeal to the House of Lords - on the basis that the identify of some witnesses at the trial was kept secret - had been dismissed. Ministers had no locus on the question of guilt or innocence. The judges in the Court of Appeal had not accepted the argument in the case of Kelly that the trial judge had been wrong to draw an adverse inference, under the Criminal Evidence (NI) Order 1988, from his silence. The Court of Appeal had also expressed itself content on the issue of identification derived from various films. The Secretary of State repeated that he had had a number of representations from different interested parties and he hoped to come to a decision very soon.

FUGITIVE OFFENDERS

23. The Secretary of State explained there had been a discussion of the issue of extradition and the treatment of fugitive offenders in recent meetings between officials. He knew that the Irish Government remained committed to amending the law on extradition for terrorist offences but, as yet, there was no indication as to when the legislation might be introduced. For its part the British side had legislation before Parliament to bring the speciality rule into statutory form. However, it was now a matter of soreness that the

Irish promise to legislate, as confirmed at an IGC in 1991 had not been fulfilled. He realised that there had been difficulties but it would help if an indication could be given as to when the legislation might be in place on the Irish side.

Mrs Geoghegan-Quinn confirmed that drafting of legislation was now at an advance stage. The Secretary of State explained that the apparent delay was capable of being used adversely against the Irish Government, by inferring that it reflected a lack of commitment to defeating terrorism; he believed that such an inference was unjustified.

24. Mrs Geoghegan-Quinn said it was impossible to give a precise timetable but she assured the Conference that the Irish side would not waste any time in ensuring that the proposals were put before the Government. She went on to say that she could not indicate what precise form the new legislation would take since this was a matter for the Government to decide and she could not pre-empt their consideration of the matter. She did confirm that it remained the Government's intention to use the new legislation to create greater certainty as to offences which are excluded from the political offence exception, especially in view of the verdict in the Sloan case, as well as to make certain other technical amendments to improve the operation of existing procedures. Mrs Geoghegan-Quinn explained that she had been briefed on the work done on the drafting of the proposed legislation and on the various proposals made by the British side, both at Conference and at official level. She reassured the Conference that the legislation would be undertaken as a matter of priority and that there would be no dragging of feet on the part of the Irish side. She also added that the British side proposals on speciality would be most helpful when this legislation was discussed in the Dail.

25. The Secretary of State said he took comfort in the fact that the material was being drafted and moving forward, he was conscious of the need to deprive people of the political offence loophole in the use of non-automatic firearms. In response to a point from the Secretary of State Mrs Geoghegan-Quinn confirmed that the British side would be kept informed of developments through the Anglo-Irish Secretariat.

TRADE AND BUSINESS CO-OPERATION

26. Mr Atkins said that in a difficult time of recession cross-border trade was doing well although it had to be admitted that it had started from a low base. He made the point that it was often being encouraged by the private sector and that some of the work, including exhibitions, had had advantages in general community

terms. The Minister noted that there was an agreed joint paper which referred to a series of joint Industrial Development Board/Irish Trade Board subcontract exhibitions to be held in Belfast, Dublin, Londonderry and Cork, and also a major joint Industrial Development Board/Irish Trade Board promotion in Chicago in June. It was also noted that further progress in opening up public purchasing to firms from both sides of the border would be advantageous. Co-operation with the business representative bodies in their continuing cross-border initiatives would be helpful and a joint conference/seminar on cross-border trade was to be arranged by both Governments, with the involvement of the business representative bodies, towards the middle end of the year. Mr Atkins emphasised that there was considerable private sector business involvement the development of cross-border trade.

27. In noting that there was also an agreed paper on tourism Mr Atkins said it had to be recognised that there was an element of competition between the North and South, but the more they could co-operate the better. There was for example a need for an all Ireland accommodation guidebook to be compiled. In addition the two Tourist Boards were seeking to identify new areas which could be marketed jointly. Given the reality of competition for tourists between the two parts of the island, it was important that Ministers continued to impress on the industry throughout the island, the enormous advantages to be gained through co-operation. Both Governments should show themselves committed to encourage and develop this area of work. Mr McCreevy said that the two Governments should be seen to encourage the respective agencies to co-operate and, whilst tourism was generally a competitive business - as between Kerry and Galway, similarly it was between North and South but it was important to spur on the organisations involved. He also expressed interest on how in the training field C.E.R.T. (the national body responsible for co-ordinating the education and training of personnel for the tourist industry in the Republic) could assist the new Tourism and Hospitality Training Council in Northern Ireland. On the trade issue he believed that it was possible that a visual push in this area could help take forward agendas in other areas. He then referred specifically to the Shannon-Erne Waterway, suggesting that the idea of a joint authority should be investigated further.

28. The Tánaiste said that the Shannon-Erne Waterway was a very exciting project and it was perhaps something they might highlight at the press conference. Mr Mates said it was important to show that IGC's were not simply about border crossing points and extradition. The Secretary of State said that he was grateful for the work that had gone into preparing the economic and social

papers. The Tánaiste explained that there was deep competition for tourism in the South, not only county by county, but also town by town. The Irish tourist industry had a level of expertise which had been developed over the years, and they would wish to share this experience and knowledge with Northern Ireland as they believed this was important area for the whole island. Mr Atkins agreed that it was important to elevate the standard of professionalism in the tourism industry in Northern Ireland; he believed that it would be very helpful if they could benefit from the expertise acquired by the Irish tourist trade.

BROADCASTING

29. The Secretary of State said that this was an issue which the Irish side had raised at the last Conference and he confirmed that, as promised at the last Conference, he had consulted with the responsible Minister in Whitehall. The Secretary of State said he recognised the importance, to nationalists in Northern Ireland, of being able to receive RTE and he was happy that the options for improving its reception should be examined. He had reviewed the issue with colleagues and there were certain technical restraints; the UHF spectrum was a very scarce resource and naturally the UK's first priority was to ensure the satisfactory reception of national channels. He suggested that the technical aspects of reception should be looked at at official level, and that it should give proper weight to the nationalist identify element. When the technical facts had been established then a political discussion could take place. The Tánaiste thanked the Secretary of State for his recent letter on the issue of broadcasting and said that if improvements could be arrived at this would be very helpful. He agreed that officials should get to grips with the technical problems; he noted that, at the Conference after next, it was planned that the matter of Arts and Culture should be discussed. He suggested that officials might aim to report to Ministers within this timescale. The Secretary of State said he could see advantage in this proposal and on a point from Mr O'Donovan the Tánaiste agreed that a meeting at official level should be arranged.

REVIEW OF WORK OF CONFERENCE

30. The Secretary of State recalled that Ministers had asked the Secretariat for a joint report on the review of the work of the Conference. He understood that the position was that a joint report had not yet been finalised but he looked forward to it being tabled at the next meeting of the IGC.

DATE OF NEXT IGC

31. The Secretary of State advised his understanding that the dates originally mentioned by the Irish side of 13/14 May were no longer suitable to them and he in turn had to regret that the new date offered of 18 May was not suitable to the British side. It was agreed that officials would look further at the matter.

FUNERAL AT WARRINGTON

32. Returning to his earlier comments at the beginning of the Conference, the Secretary of State advised the Irish side that he had just received word that the family of the three year old boy murdered in a terrorist attack in Warrington had indicated that his funeral would be a low key and private affair. In view of this news the British Government would comply with the family wishes regarding the funeral arrangements.

JOINT STATEMENT

33. A copy of the joint statement agreed by both side is an Annex A.

JOINT STATEMENT
ANGLO-IRISH INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE
BELFAST, 23 MARCH 1993

1. A meeting of the Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental Conference was held in Belfast on 23 March 1993. The British Government was represented by the Joint Chairman, the Right Honourable Sir Patrick Mayhew MP, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, accompanied by Mr Michael Mates MP, Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office, Mr Robert Atkins MP, Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office and Mr Jeremy Hanley MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Northern Ireland Office. The Irish Government was represented by the Joint Chairman, Mr Dick Spring TD, Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mrs Máire Geoghegan-Quinn TD, Minister for Justice and Mr Charlie McCreevy TD, Minister for Tourism and Trade. The Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the Commissioner of the Garda Síochána were present for discussion of security matters.

2. The Conference discussed the security situation, the prospects for political talks and other issues. At this meeting, there was also a special focus on trade, business and tourism.

Security Situation

3. The Conference strongly condemned the bombing in Warrington and other recent acts of terrorist violence which waste human life and achieve only misery and destruction. Ministers reaffirmed their total rejection of any intent to promote political objectives by violence or the threat of violence. They expressed their appreciation of the high level of security co-operation and agreed to continue to seek ways to enhance it.

Political Talks

4. Ministers expressed their wish to see further talks take place as soon as possible on the basis of the statement of 26 March 1991. Meanwhile, they undertook to continue consideration together of how best to achieve progress.

Confidence Issues

5. The Conference received a report of a meeting of the Steering Group of officials on the question of confidence in the security forces and the administration of justice. Both sides reaffirmed the importance they attach to this critical area. There was a specific discussion of the policy regarding the use of lethal force, the issues involved in the possible re-opening of cross-border roads, and the application of criteria governing reference of cases by the Secretary of State to the Court of Appeal.

Fugitive Offenders

6. The Conference reviewed progress made towards the introduction and passage of amending legislation in both jurisdictions.

Trade/Tourism

7. The Conference welcomed the special focus on trade, business and tourism and underlined that closer cross-border co-operation in these areas could result in considerable mutual economic and community benefit. The Conference noted that, while 1992 had been a difficult year internationally, cross-border trade had nonetheless increased. They agreed that the coming into effect of the Single Market would bring progressive benefits North and South of the Border. They reviewed with satisfaction the range of trade and tourism initiatives carried out with the support of the specialised agencies since the Conference of July 1990 and, especially, over the past year. The Conference particularly welcomed the progress being made on the restoration of the Ballinamore/Ballyconnell Canal which is the largest North-South Tourism project due for completion in 1994.

8. The Conference endorsed the programme of work in trade and tourism for the remainder of the year and agreed that a meeting on cross-border trade and business co-operation, under the sponsorship of both Governments, should take place in 1993.

Other Economic and Social Issues

9. The Conference noted that arrangements are in hand for discussion of a number of topics at future meetings: Enterprise and Employment, Science and Technology, Arts and Culture, Inland Fisheries, Education, Transport, and Agriculture. Enterprise and Employment, and Science and Technology, will be discussed at the next meeting.