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Title: Informal meeting of Erskine Childers, Minister for Transport and Power and Posts and Telegraphs, and Captain Terence O'Neill, Prime Minister of Northern Ireland

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OIFIG AN TAOISIGH
- 3 ABR 1967
RÚNAÍ PRÍOBHÁIDEACH

OIFIG AN AIRE IOMPAIR AGUS CUMHACHTA
(OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND POWER)
BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 2.
(DUBLIN 2)

3rd April, 1967.

Dear Taoiseach,

I spent three and a half hours with Terence O'Neill at Bonn, meeting by accident.

He was in great form and recounted anecdotes, Paisley stories and occasions when he was treated as coming from the South at receptions etc.

His officials invented Press accounts of our meeting as a secret plot.

* He said that the Paisley attitude to tolerance amounted to 7 - 10% of the Protestant population. Intolerance varied inversely with income and education.

He strongly advocated the new policy. We settle our affairs ourselves. He said that Paisley had created an undercurrent of suspicion, which would disappear in time, if no inflammatory speeches were made on this side and if his own colleagues refused to be intimidated by Paisleyism (in the non-violent political sense).

He believes in more cooperation and said that Unionism could not survive in a fog of prejudice and bigotry.

I would say he was in advance of his Cabinet in thinking and obviously loathes intolerance even if he has to temporise officially.

The evening was informal and we did not debate anything officially.

He conveyed his compliments to you.

Yours sincerely,

J. Lynch, Esq., T.D.,
An Taoiseach.

*P.S. Paisley without
the violent element.*

[Signature]
Erskine Childers.

CS

6 Cos: Co-operation with

4th April, 1967.

Dear Erskine,

Thanks for your note of yesterday about your meeting with Terence O'Neill in Bonn.

The views he expressed to you on intolerance, prejudice and bigotry are interesting and support your suggestion that he is in advance of his Cabinet in his thinking.

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten mark

Erskine Childers, Esq., T.D.,
Minister for Transport and Power & Posts and Telegraphs.

Handwritten signature: Rufois
Handwritten date: 4.4.67
Handwritten mark
Handwritten date: 4.4.67