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SECRET AND PERSONAL

PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM MR. LIAM COSGRAVE, T.D.
TO THE RT. HON. EDWARD HEATH, M.P.

Thank you for your message of 16 November 1973 outlining the progress made in regard to the formation of an Executive and your comments in this respect as well as in relation to the Council of Ireland.

2. I note that the Council of Ireland will figure prominently in Mr. Whitelaw's statement and that the package will most probably be presented to the Parties on 19 November and to Parliament soon afterwards most probably in the debate on 22 November. It is important that the terms of any statement about the Council of Ireland and any other matters which concern us here should be agreed between us in advance. I should, therefore, be grateful if you would be so good as to let me know immediately in view of the time factor the precise terms of any such statement.

3. If the statement should create any problems for us which need to be resolved I will be happy to arrange for Dr. FitzGerald to see Mr. Whitelaw with a view to resolving them.

4. I share your view that we must move as fast as possible in this whole matter but, at the same time, I feel that we must ensure that statements made do not create new difficulties. For these reasons I look forward to receiving at the earliest possible moment the terms of any proposed statement.

16 November 1973