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The following joint statement was issued today in Dublin following
the discussions:

1. The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister had a wide ranging discussion
on the situation in Northern Ireland and other issues affecting
relations between the two countries.

2. They were in agreement on the need to bring the suffering of the
people of Northern Ireland to an end as quickly as possible and to
secure peace and reconciliation there. It was accepted that this
objective can be achieved only through the democratic process, through
the growth of trust and confidence between the two communities in the
North and by closer cooperation between North and South. In this
context, they reaffirmed their support for the concept of a Council
of Ireland and their willingness to assist in its formation in a
conference at which they would discuss with Northern Ireland
representatives the form and functions of such a Council.

3. Means of containing and eliminating violence in Northern Ireland,
irrespective of its source, were discussed.

4. The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister look forward to further
meetings.

Issued at 20.15 hrs.