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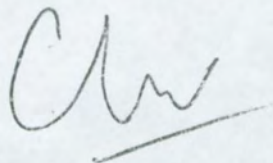
Mr Dalton.

Draft for the Formal Signing of the Revised Agreement
on Implementing Sunningdale

Minister

1. I attach a draft agreed minute to formalise the arrangements for implementing the agreement reached within the Northern Ireland Executive on the phased introduction of the Council of Ireland. This draft has been prepared by the IDU with the advice of Mr. D. Quigley and Mr. Mahon Hayes. It covers only the first phase of implementation and the reason is that there are serious misgivings as to whether we should enter into any formal agreement which would bind us to giving a further veto to a majority in Northern Ireland on political movement in this island.
2. The majority community in the North have already been given a guarantee that the status of Northern Ireland will not be changed without the consent of a majority in Northern Ireland. This is the only right of veto which has so far been conceded formally to a Northern Ireland majority.
3. It is recommended that the Government should not concede a new electoral veto against the development of North-South co-operation. Accordingly it is submitted that:
 - (1) an agreed minute in the form attached should be concluded as soon as possible in order to introduce the first phase of the Council of Ireland;
 - (2) no agreement should be concluded that would involve the formal assent of the Government to the proposal of the Northern Ireland Executive that the second phase of implementation be subject to the test of the electorate in Northern Ireland; and

(3) no international agreement with its recital of the status provisions should be concluded until the introduction of the second phase of implementation.



C. V. Whelan

27 May 1974

DRAFT AGREED MINUTE

1. Delegations representing the Irish and British Governments and the Northern Ireland Executive met at
on 1974.
2. The delegations expressed their satisfaction that since the Sunningdale Conference the Northern Ireland Executive had been established on a power-sharing basis and powers had been devolved on it and on the Northern Ireland Assembly. They confirmed their acceptance of the agreements recorded in the Communiqué signed at the end of the Sunningdale Conference as the basis for a development of mutual trust and confidence between the different parts of the community in Northern Ireland and between the people in both parts of Ireland.
3. As a first phase of implementation of these agreements, the Irish Government and the Northern Ireland Executive have each nominated seven members to the Council of Ministers of the Council of Ireland. The Council of Ministers will be a forum for consultation, co-operation and co-ordination of action in relation to the economic and social matters set out in the list annexed to this Minute.
4. The Council of Ministers will undertake the responsibilities in relation to human rights and policing matters which are set out in paragraphs 11 and 15 of the Sunningdale Communiqué respectively.
5. The Council of Ministers will hold its first meeting today and thereafter at least [] times each year at venues to be decided. The Council will appoint on secondment from the civil service of the Irish Government and of the Northern Ireland Executive such staff as is necessary for the servicing of its meetings and the effective discharge of its duties.