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MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS DATED 24 FEBRUARY 1975

CROSS-BORDER DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

I have had a full report from Stan Orme of his meeting with you on Friday, 7 February in which you talked about the cross-border studies. I have seen the subsequent reports in the Dublin press, which repeated the statements which you made to him in the course of your confidential discussions. I have also seen your answer to a question in the Dail on 5 February on this subject, and the press reports on your speeches in Northern Ireland during the weekend of the 15/16 February. I must take the strongest exception to your repeated public misrepresentations on this subject, and your groundless accusations that agreements have been broken. The facts were set out clearly in the message which Sir Arthur Galsworthy handed to you on 23 January.

We are still prepared to proceed with the schemes discussed between our officials and indeed defined in more detail in the Aide Memoire handed to Dr O'Sullivan in London on 5 February. I shall be glad if you will let me know soon whether your Government wish to proceed with these or not.

24 February 1975

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