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Agreed Communiqué

Meeting between the Taoiseach, Mr. Charles Haughey, T.D.,
and the Prime Minister, the Right Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
on 21 May 1980

The Taoiseach, Mr. Charles Haughey, T.D., who was accompanied by Mr. Brian Lenihan, T.D., Minister for Foreign Affairs had discussions today 21 May at 10 Downing Street with the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P. The Rt. Hon. The Lord Carrington, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and the Rt. Hon. Humphrey Atkins, M.P., Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, were present. The talks were preceded by a working lunch, also attended by the Rt. Hon. Sir Ian Gilmour Bt, M.P., the Lord Privy Seal. The talks covered bilateral and European Community issues as well as current international problems of concern to both Governments.

The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister agreed that they wished to develop new and closer political co-operation between their two Governments. They agreed to hold regular meetings, on a continuing basis, accompanied by other Ministers as appropriate.

They had a useful and constructive exchange of views about the prospects for political progress in Northern Ireland. While agreeing with the Prime Minister that any change in the constitutional status of Northern Ireland would only come about

with the consent of a majority of the people of Northern Ireland, the Taoiseach reaffirmed that it is the wish of the Irish Government to secure the unity of Ireland by agreement and in peace. The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister recorded agreement on the importance they attach to the unique relationship between the peoples of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic, and on the need to further this relationship in the interest of peace and reconciliation.

The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister noted with satisfaction the efforts being made by the two Governments, both separately and in co-operation, in the field of security.