

## NATIONAL ARCHIVES

### IRELAND



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Joint Statement following meeting between the Taoiseach  
and Ministers and SDLP delegation, 6 February, 1981.

The Taoiseach, Mr. Charles J. Haughey, T.D., the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Brian Lenihan, T.D., and the Minister for Education, Mr. John Wilson, T.D. met a delegation from the SDLP in Dublin today.

The SDLP were represented by Mr. John Hume, MEP, leader of the Party, Mr. Séamus Mallon, deputy leader, Dr.

Joe Hendron, Chairman of the Constituency Representatives, Mr. Austin Currie, Constituency Representative and Liaison Officer for the Party with Dublin, Mr. Michael Canavan, spokesman on Security, Mr. Hugh Logue, Economic spokesman and Mr. Frank Feely, spokesman on Cross-Border Economic Development and

The meeting was one of a regular series between the Government and the SDLP for the purpose of discussing current developments in regard to Northern Ireland.

The SDLP representatives gave their support to the Government's approach to securing peace, reconciliation and stability in Northern Ireland. Satisfaction was expressed at the outcome of the summit meeting in Dublin in December between the British Prime Minister and the Taoiseach. Both sides reiterated that the process set in train there opened up the prospect of a better future in which the real political, economic and social interests of all the peoples of these islands, including both sections of the community in Northern Ireland, can be secured.

The economic plight of Northern Ireland was a subject of great concern to the meeting and was discussed at length.

There was also a full exchange of views on the security situation and the administration of justice in Northern Ireland.