

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

## IRELAND



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# ROINN AN TAOISIGH

Misc.  
F. 2.

Uimhir.....

To: Taoiseach,

From: Liam Hourican.

Articles 2 and 3: Reverend Martin Smith.

Taoiseach,

A Northern journalist who attended a briefing given by the party leadership at the end of the Official Unionist Conference tells me that Rev. Martin Smith was asked about his attitude to the rumoured Anglo-Irish Council. He said Unionists could not contemplate recognising such a Council as long as Articles 2 and 3 existed.

He became coy when asked whether recognition would follow their deletion.

In similar vein, Mr. Jim Molyneaux told the same briefing that neither the Benelux nor the Franco-German relationship constituted a precedent for an Anglo-Irish link since, as he pointed out "France has no claim on German territory".

These two statements imply a recognition of the significance of the Taoiseach's initiative going far beyond what the Official Unionist leadership has said in public.

*Liam Hourican*

27th October, 1981.

LIAM HOURICAN,  
Government Press Secretary.

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