

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

## IRELAND



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Under Article 2 of the Constitution of Ireland, the national territory consists of the whole island of Ireland, its islands and the territorial seas. Article 3 states that "Pending the re-integration of the national territory, and without prejudice to the right of the Parliament and Government established by this Constitution to exercise jurisdiction over the whole of that territory, the laws enacted by that Parliament shall have the like area and extent of application as the laws of Saorstát Éireann and the like extra-territorial effect".

It is the wish of the Irish Government and people to secure the unity of Ireland by agreement and in peace, and we accept that such a united Ireland will only come about with the participation and consent of a majority of the people of Northern Ireland.

It is appreciated that the views of the British Government in relation to the Constitutional position of Northern Ireland differ from those of the Irish Government.

Despite these differences, the Irish and British Governments have agreed in recent years that they wished to develop new and closer political co-operation between their two Governments. They have also agreed that the economic, social and political interests of the peoples of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic are inextricably linked, but that the full development of these links has been put under strain by division and dissent in Northern Ireland. In that context, the two Governments accepted the need to bring forward policies and proposals to achieve peace, reconciliation and



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stability; and to improve relations between the peoples of the two countries. They agreed that they were ready to join in promoting arrangements which might help to reduce tensions between and to reconcile the peoples of the two parts of Ireland. These objectives cannot be achieved by the people of Northern Ireland and the Westminster Parliament acting alone.

In the Joint Memorandum of 20 January 1982 on the Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental Council there was an explicit agreement that "Within the framework of the Council there will be the closest bilateral consultation at Ministerial or Official level, as appropriate, on matters relating to those purposes and on matters of common interest or concern".

The position of the Irish Government is that only policies and proposals brought forward jointly by the two Governments and providing a framework for dialogue between elected representatives in both parts of Ireland will achieve the objectives to which both Governments are publicly committed.

The Irish Government remain ready to enter into discussions on how best to work together to bring forward such policies and proposals.

Department of Foreign Affairs  
Dublin

3 September 1982