

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

## IRELAND



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| <b>Reference Code:</b>    | 2013/100/1055                                                                                                            |
| <b>Creation Date(s):</b>  | 11 March 1983                                                                                                            |
| <b>Extent and medium:</b> | 1 page                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Creator(s):</b>        | Department of the Taoiseach                                                                                              |
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APPENDIX 2

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GOVERNMENT STATEMENT

The Government propose to arrange, in agreement with the political parties concerned, for the establishment of a Forum for consultations on the manner in which lasting peace and stability can be achieved in a new Ireland through the democratic process.

Participation will be open to all democratic parties which reject violence, and which have members elected or appointed to the Oireachtas or the Northern Ireland Assembly.

The views of other people of all traditions who agree with the purpose of these consultations and who reject violence will also be sought by the Forum.

It would be the intention that the Forum will report before the end of the year on possible new structures and processes through which its objective might be achieved.

The Taoiseach will arrange a meeting of the leaders of all the parties who wish to participate at an early date to discuss the arrangements involved.

11 March, 1983.