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The Taoiseach, Dr. Garret FitzGerald, T.D., accompanied by the Tanaiste, Mr. Dick Spring, T.D., and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Peter Barry, T.D., met today in Government Buildings with a delegation from the S.D.L.P. consisting of the Party Leader, Mr. John Hume, M.P., M.E.P., the Deputy Leader, Mr. Seamus Mallon, Dr. Joe Hendron and the Chief Whip, Mr Eddie McGrady.

The meeting focussed on the follow-up to the report of the New Ireland Forum, the findings and conclusions of which are, the Government again confirmed, in accordance with their policy.

The Government confirmed to the S.D.L.P. that they had brought the Report in all its aspects to the attention of the British Government. While informal exchanges between the two Governments are continuing, the Government still await the considered response of the British Government to the Report.

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The Government emphasised that they had invited the British Government to join in a process that would recognise the 11 Realities identified in the Forum Report and which would give effect to the 10 Requirements proposed in the Report as necessary elements of a framework within which a New Ireland could emerge.

The Government repeated to the S.D.L.P. their commitment that any political development would, in order to constitute progress, have to transform present political, social, economic, judicial and security structures, thus ending the chronically disadvantaged situation of Northern nationalists, while not undermining the rights or the identity of Unionists as they are defined in the Forum Report. In other words it is a primary purpose of Government policy to create for the first time a context which will fully accommodate the Northern nationalists and enable them to play their full role in shaping the future of this island.

10th September, 1984.