



**An Chartlann Náisiúnta**  
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Meeting between the Taoiseach and Prime Minister Major  
Dublin, 7 December, 1992

Steering Note on Anglo-Irish Aspects

1. There is no indication as yet that the Prime Minister intends to raise Anglo-Irish matters with the Taoiseach. The view at official level on the British side is that he is unlikely to do so.
2. However the Taoiseach and Prime Minister may wish to have at least a brief exchange of views on the issue, which may also be the subject of press queries afterwards.
3. The Taoiseach might consider making the following points:

Political Dialogue

- The Talks achieved some valuable progress and this should be consolidated and built on.
- It seems a good idea, as agreed at the last Conference, that the two Governments should meet informally as soon as possible in the new Dail term, to see how progress can best be made.
- We would hope the informal contacts agreed by all participants at the end of the last phase of Talks will lead to an early resumption of negotiations.
- The Irish Government will play an active and constructive part in these contacts.

- In the meantime both Governments should continue their close cooperation in the framework of the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

#### Security Cooperation

- There is unfortunately a likelihood of further IRA attacks in the Christmas period.
- Both Governments must maintain their present close security cooperation to defeat this evil campaign.

#### US Peace Envoy

4. Mr. Major will be visiting Washington before Christmas and will meet also President-Elect Clinton. With this in mind he may want to secure the Taoiseach's support to forestall the proposal for a "peace envoy". Such a proposal would need very careful planning to have any prospect of winning general acceptance or helping the situation. However it is also a welcome expression of interest by the incoming President which could prove useful, including in our contacts with the British. For this reason it is suggested the Taoiseach should avoid anything which might be used to suggest to Mr. Clinton that the Taoiseach endorsed a negative British view of the proposal:

- Successive US administrations have shown a very constructive interest in the Northern problem, including practical assistance through the International Fund for Ireland, and we have consistently welcomed this.
- The proposal for a peace envoy reflects a willingness by the incoming President to continue this constructive interest and we appreciate this.

- Any such mission should of course be carried out in the manner most likely to win general acceptance and contribute to progress.
- For that reason it would require careful preparation.
- We would expect extensive consultation with the new administration on ways in which their interest and goodwill could best be brought to bear on the situation.

Anglo-Irish Division  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
4 December, 1992