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MINUTES OF THE ANGLO-IRISH INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE
LONDON, 27 APRIL 1992

SECRET

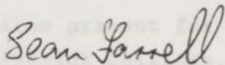
29 April 1992

Mr Seán O hUiginn
Assistant Secretary
Anglo-Irish Division
Department of Foreign Affairs

Dear Assistant Secretary,

I enclose a draft note on the meeting of the Anglo-Irish
Intergovernmental Conference held in London on 27 April 1992.

Yours sincerely,



Sean Farrell

MEETING OF THE ANGLO-IRISH INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE
LONDON, 27 APRIL 1992

INTRODUCTION

The 42nd regular meeting of the Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental Conference was held in London on 27 April, 1992. The Conference was attended, on the Irish side, by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. David Andrews, TD, the Minister for Justice, Mr. Pádraig Flynn, TD, Mr. Noel Dorr, Mr. Joe Brosnan, Mr. Sean O hUiginn, Mr. Caoimhin O hUiginn, Ambassador Joe Small and from the Secretariat, Mr. Declan O'Donovan, Mr. Sean Farrell and Mr. Tim Dalton.

On the British side, the Conference was attended by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Sir Patrick Mayhew, MP, the Minister of State, Mr. Michael Mates, MP, Mr. David Fell, Ambassador David Blatherwick, Mr. John Ledlie, Mr. Quentin Thomas, Mr. Peter Bell, and from the Secretariat, Mr. Robert Alston, Mr. Marcus Dodds and Mr. David Kyle.

Also present for discussion of security matters were Mr. Patrick Culligan, Commissioner, Garda Síochána and Mr. Hugh Annesley, Chief Constable of the RUC.

The Conference began at 9.45a.m. with a Tete-a-tete which was followed by a Restricted Security Session (recorded separately) from 10.20a.m. to 11.20a.m. The plenary session ran from 11.40a.m. to 1.10p.m.

(The following account of proceedings is in the form of direct speech and is based on detailed notes taken during the meeting. It does not, however, purport to be a verbatim record nor is it necessarily exhaustive of all the exchanges.)

CONFIDENTIALANGLO-IRISH INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE, LONDON, 27 APRIL 1992AGENDA

- 9.30 a.m. TETE-A-TETE
- 10.00 a.m. RESTRICTED SECURITY SESSION
- 10.30 a.m. PLENARY
1. Political talks
 2. Confidence Issues
 - (i) General remarks by Irish Co-Chairman
 - (ii) Cross-border roads
 - (iii) Parades
 - (iv) Lethal force
 - (v) RIR/UDR Merger
 3. Economic and Social Cooperation
 - (i) Brief Review of progress to date
 - (ii) Dublin-Belfast Rail Link
 - (iii) Item for next Conference
 4. Date of next Conference
 5. Any Other Business
 6. Communique
- 1.00 p.m. LUNCH
- 2.30 p.m. PRESS CONFERENCE
- 3.00 p.m. DEPART

PLENARYPOLITICAL TALKS

Mr. Mayhew: David and Padraig, now that we are in Plenary, may I reiterate in the presence of old friends and new the very warm welcome which we extend to you. I would like to repeat what I said earlier privately that I feel deep gratitude not just to you for coming here but to our predecessors on both sides who have brought about the warm and cordial relations between us. I can think of no way that any two countries wishing to cooperate could benefit more than by studying the structures which we have evolved over the years which include meeting on a regular basis to discuss matters.

Now, with regard to political issues, the first thing I would like to assure you is of the total commitment of our Government to the Anglo-Irish Agreement and the total commitment of each of us personally to making it work. Both Michael and I feel privileged to be able to take part in this process. The second assurance I wish to give you concerns the talks and here I would like to state that the Government is totally committed to making the talks a success. All of us on our side are committed to the three-strand approach. All of us in the Government recognise the need to find an accommodation which would make for a better relationship within Northern Ireland, between North and South and on an East-West basis.

At the same time I should stress that we have no blueprint for the future. What emerges is above all a matter for discussion and must be based on consent. However, whatever comes out has got to be consistent with what is in the Anglo-Irish Agreement with regard to there being no change in the status of Northern Ireland unless a majority of the population of Northern Ireland so wish. Whatever arrangement does emerge from the talks has got to be fair to the minority in Northern Ireland and has also got to accord proper recognition of your country's proper interest in what happens in Northern Ireland.

I would like to summarise in the limited time we have available that continuity is the name of the game. By continuity I mean that I wholly endorse the policy of my predecessor as outlined in his statement of 26 March 1991. I would add that we will of course be addressing ourselves not just to the security aspects of the defeat of terrorism. I recognise that there is need for a parallel thrust political in character and that there is also an economic and social dimension involved. I recognise that much work needs to be done in these areas with a view to eliminating discrimination where it exists and to lower the spread of disparity between the two communities. Here again the policy is one of continuity.

Summarising our earlier discussions; we have today agreed that there shall be an interruption in meetings of the Conference of about three months, until the week beginning 26 July. A sensible time span is needed for the talks process. During this time all three strands will be pursued. The maxim will continue to be that nothing is agreed until everything is agreed. With regard to the transition from Strand I to Strand II, I assure you that I share to the full Peter Brooke's understanding of the sensitivities involved for your Government in a rapid transition. I will use my best endeavours to bring about progress which will within weeks allow that transition to take place. I would like to quote from Peter Brooke regarding the timing for this transition when he said that it would be necessary to have launched all three sets of discussions within weeks of each other. That is our understanding and I share fully with you the wish to have a swift transition. Like you, I want it sooner rather than later. I believe we have reached an understanding on this matter and hope that our goodwill is accepted by you.

Mr. Andrews: I would like to thank you very much for those opening remarks. I would like to formally say "hello" and to offer our congratulations to you and Michael on your new positions. I might add that the exchanges which took place privately between us during the Tete-a-tete this morning augur well for the future. I would like to join you also in paying

tribute to your predecessor Peter Brooke. If I were voting today I would vote for him as Speaker. (Mr. Mayhew: I am!). I am grateful to both Peter Brooke and Gerry Collins for the atmosphere of trust they generated in past meetings of the Conference.

You used the word "continuity" in your remarks and that is an important word and I agree with you that there should be no change in the rules. In this regard, I would also mention the word "suspension" and state that this word is never used in the context of the Anglo-Irish Conference. The word trust is very much in our minds. I would repeat that we are totally committed to the agreements reached by our predecessors and to working to make the talks succeed.

Now I turn to what we have agreed. On the Gap, we have agreed to a three month Gap and I hope nothing else will be suggested at the Press Conference if the question is put. We have also agreed to an extension of one week or two if that is required. With regard to the transition to Strand II, I would refer again to the wording in the 26 March 1991 statement where the suggestion is that this would take place "within weeks". We take this to mean weeks not months. Our interpretation continues to be that the transition would take place about four or five weeks into Strand I. I appreciate what you have said regarding the urgency of moving to Strand II and the strong thrust you said you would put into achieving this. I would stress again that this is a matter which is very important both for the Irish Government and for the SDLP and I would suggest to you also that it is important for you, too. Failure to achieve a rapid transition might put you rather than us offside.

I agree that the Gap should be long enough to allow serious negotiations to take place and all parties should cooperate to ensure that progress is made. On the question of providing a short extension of one or two weeks, where this is required to achieve results I would say to you that time will not be an obstacle. However, I have to say to you also that I can not agree to announce an open-ended extension since this might

give the impression that my Government wished for a long Gap, which could have the effect of marginalising the Conference. Nor do I wish to spin things out. I can accept a short definite extension. I think this covers what we have agreed but I just want to emphasise again the importance of an early transition to Strand II. We were given the impression that this would take place within 4-5 weeks and while I appreciate you can give no guarantee, I hope you can confirm that the goal of 4-5 weeks for the transition is your expectation. I feel we are ad idem on most points.

Mr. Mayhew: With regard to an extension of the Gap, I entirely agree that there can be no extension for time wasted on wrangling. There must be real substantive progress before any extension can be contemplated. We agree that the Communique will not mention an extension since we don't wish to give that kind of signal. If a short segment is required because matters are well advanced, then we are grown up and wise enough to deal with that situation. If we are asked at the Press Conference whether there is to be any extension of the Gap, then we could give an indication that in those tightly controlled circumstances there could be a short extra segment, i.e. that we would not bring down the shutters if that would close off success.

Mr. Andrews: Yes, but regarding those questions, what do you mean by a segment, 1-2 weeks?

Mr. Mayhew: Yes, 1-2 weeks. After all three months is a long enough time for talks. I would consider that there should be a maximum of 2 weeks before the next Conference meeting would take place. I also agree with you about the Conference not being suspended and again would go back to the words used in the 26 March statement. Similarly, on the Secretariat we should only mention it in the terms used in the 26 March statement, that "between the specified dates the Secretariat at Maryfield will accordingly not be required for that period to discharge its normal role of servicing Conference meetings provided for in Article 3 of the Agreement". I believe we

would be wise to leave the matter within those short parameters.

This simply leaves the transition. We are agreed that the matter should be expressed in the terms only of the 26 March statement, i.e. "within weeks" but not stating a specific number. I am holding to this. I gave you an assurance as Chairman that I would do all in my power to bring about the transition to Strand II sooner rather than later. I am not putting a gloss on this. The statement says "within weeks". If you are asked the question it is up to you to say 4, 5 or 6 weeks. You have my undertaking on this and as far as the Communique is concerned I will stick to that.

Mr. Andrews: I accept your undertaking unreservedly.

Mr. Flynn: I am not seeking to intrude on this but I just wanted to offer my heartiest congratulations to you both and that I am for my part happy to note that you have stressed the political, social and economic aspects of the problem in Northern Ireland and I look forward to continuing cooperation.

Mr. Mayhew: Thank you for that. There has never been any play acting on my part about this job. However, I should stress that never on any occasion have I indicated that the best interests of Ireland would not be served by having Peter Brooke as Secretary of State. I am very happy to have been invited to do the job which is a tremendous one. Now we have an agenda to get through. You have kindly indicated your appreciation of the time constraints we are under.

Mr. Andrews: Could I ask whether there is any reason that you and I could not meet during the three months.

Mr. Mayhew: Yes, of course, but not so as we gave the impression that it was a Conference meeting. It's ridiculous to think that we should be in purdah for that period.

Mr. Flynn: Yes and I'd like to thank you for the briefing that has been offered to me, which I have accepted. I'd like to invite you Michael to visit me following it. In extending this invitation I am not seeking to undermine the Gap.

Mr. Mayhew: It will be business as usual.

I would like to say something further with regard to the political talks. I think there is a more auspicious atmosphere now than has been the case for decades. Everywhere I go I feel people are expressing a demand that the politicians produce something that will bring about a better relationship within Northern Ireland and between the North and South and between Britain and Ireland. There is a feeling among the public that we cannot just go on like this. I say this having walked through the streets of Belfast and Derry, where, I might say, I got what appeared to be a warmer welcome than in my own constituency.

Mr. Flynn: The figures wouldn't support you! (laughter).

Mr. Mayhew: It behoves politicians to heed these signs and in bilateral meetings with the party leaders here, I feel they know this. I consider therefore that now is a propitious moment and a hopeful moment. I hope I have the wisdom and patience of Peter Brooke in dealing with this task.

Mr. Andrews: I agree. This is a good beginning. It is important that all four of us are seen to be cooperating as fully as possible. Of course we will have our differences, but we will deal with them in civilised fashion. If I may quote again from Peter Brooke, what we are setting out to achieve is a new beginning for relationships within Northern Ireland, within the island of Ireland and between the peoples of these islands. I feel that the announcement of the Gap and of the transition will give a kick-start to the process. With regard to security cooperation, this is something that is very high on our agenda and we are strongly committed to it. With regard to political aspects, nothing is ruled out.

Mr. Flynn: I just want to add that I feel the strength of your wish to succeed. It's good to hear this from you. The type of language you use gives me hope and I hope that this feeling I have is reciprocated. We want the talks to succeed and so do lots of people. In the first delicate days great responsibility will fall on you but I feel you have the determination and commitment to see it through.

Mr. Mayhew: This is quite true. My wife has told me I am a terribly bad actor and there is no playacting involved on my part.

Mr. Flynn: I just want to emphasise that your efforts will be backed up.

CONFIDENCE ISSUES

Mr. Andrews: There are a few points of immediate concern to us in the area of Confidence Issues. Confidence in the security forces is of course a major objective of both Governments under the Agreement. Confidence and security are not competing values. Lack of confidence in the security forces sooner or later breeds added security problems. There can never be good security where the population distrusts the security forces. You must agree that there is, unfortunately, much still to be done in this area: after 7 years of the Agreement, a recent British Social Attitudes survey showed that only 38% of Catholics felt the RUC was even-handed and only 46% felt the same about the British Army. These figures represent a reduction of more than 20% from 1986. Also only 20% thought the UDR was evenhanded. Lack of confidence in the security forces also does great damage to the political climate in the nationalist community. The paramilitaries know that and are able to exploit any opportunity you give them for propaganda purposes.

I would now like to mention several individual incidents of which you will know about through the Secretariat, which confirm that there are serious problems which we must address if we wish to have the cooperation of the whole community. I

would like to hope that we could both, as new teams, give a fresh impetus to the search for improvement in this area.

(i) HARASSMENT

Mr. Andrews: Firstly, I would like to deal with harassment, particularly of young working class males. Our contacts with nationalists groups and independent human rights bodies such as Helsinki Watch, highlight this as a major problem. There is little faith in the official complaints system which exist. We raised difficulties in the New Lodge area in early March. Fr. Denis Faul has drawn our attention to problems with the Parachute Regiment in Tyrone. There have been a string of individual cases raised by reputable individuals, such as Seamus Mallon and Joe Hendron. Incidentally, I would like to praise the tremendous achievement of Joe Hendron in winning West Belfast. I see it as a tremendous boost for peace. (Mr. Mayhew: Yes).

A particularly disturbing aspect of harassment is that Loyalist murder gangs can interpret the security forces actions as a licence to target the individuals concerned. The case of Danny Cassidy, who was murdered in Kilrea on 2 April is a tragic case in point. I am treating the subject of harassment briefly because of the time constraints on us at today's meeting, but I don't wish by doing this to minimise our interest in this matter. Other cases I would mention include Sean Hughes of Belfast, William McCabe of Newry and Seamus MacDhaibheid of Newry, as well as the recent activities of the Parachute Regiment in Tyrone. I hope you will take on board our concerns on these and other cases.

(ii) ACCOMPANIMENT

The commitment to RUC accompaniment of the army, including UDR patrols "save in the most exceptional circumstances" is seen as important by Northern nationalists and by our public here as one safeguard against abuse. I hope we can agree to increased efforts to implement this commitment. Furthermore, where unaccompanied patrols are brought to our attention I hope we can be given an explanation to pass on to the complainant and to reassure our public that the commitment is

adhered to. I want to stress also that these commitments should apply to the newly merged regiment, the Royal Irish Rangers.

(iii) PRISONS

On prisons we have always encouraged efforts to defuse flashpoints which could be of propaganda benefit to the dreadful paramilitaries. The recent difficulties over the strip searching of women prisoners in Maghaberry on 2 March caused concern to both political and religious leaders in the nationalist community and revived a highly emotive issue in a very unwelcome way.

(iv) NELSON CASE

As I mentioned at the last Conference, this case raises very serious questions in the nationalist community and for the Irish Government and indeed yourselves. There is serious concern that the security services may have crossed a very important dividing line between handling an agent and tolerating, or even becoming an accessory to serious crime. I understand you are taking action to ensure there is no recurrence. Mr. Brooke undertook to keep us informed of progress and I would welcome an update on the Nelson case from you. This case is one of the most important from the Irish point of view.

Mr. Mayhew: May I deal with the Confidence Issues first? It has been said that you can have the most efficient security forces in the world but without local confidence in them you are lost. Police can only police by consent. I wholly agree with these sentiments. The art nowadays is to equip the police and the military with the powers needed to combat terrorism while at the same time ensuring that the framework of law within which they operate is a fair one. Can I say unreservedly that we cannot afford to give the PIRA a chance to make propaganda in this area by suggesting that there is a different law for the security forces. They must operate within the law. I would mention that six members of the Parachute Regiment are being prosecuted and the matter is now

sub judice. There are proceedings also against two Royal Marines.

Exactly the same criteria applies with regard to the Nelson case. Nelson was charged with murder and with conspiracy to murder. When he appeared in Court he admitted conspiracy to murder. The decision was taken not to prosecute for murder. I have to state the decision whether or not to prosecute is a matter for the Director of Public Prosecutions. It is not the Government which takes the decision. The DPP, Alastair Frazer, who succeeded Barry Shaw, is a man of the utmost probity. His deputy, Danny MacGill, also has an independent status and each one has to be satisfied with regard to bringing a prosecution.

In Nelson's case we know the outcome. He was sentenced to 10 years for conspiracy to murder. Chief Justice Kelly, in his remarks, stressed that there could be no half-way house with regard to criminal culpability in a situation like this. As a result of the Nelson case, an investigation is being conducted into the controls over this type of activities to ensure that they are adequate. This investigation is not yet complete and I think that was what Peter Brooke had in mind when he undertook to report back to you. I can tell you there will be no more Nelson cases. I would add I have been advised that up to 200 lives were possibly saved as a result of the information supplied by Nelson. However, he crossed the line into criminal culpability. My aim is that there should be no repeat.

Mr. Andrews: I accept that you will come back to me on this. Whatever the claim about 200 lives being saved, I want to point out that Nelson was involved in taking lives. Furthermore, the testimony given in Court by a British Army Intelligence officer gives rise to very important questions, such as:

- the extent of official knowledge of Nelson's activities;
- the degree to which the British Army had foreknowledge of and involvement in UDA murders;

- whether there is toleration by the British Army of the involvement of its agents in criminal activities.

Mr. Mayhew: I am very familiar with the case. I will come back to you with a report on the review of the safeguards, but not on how the prosecution of Nelson was handled. After the pleas were received, I understand that a scrupulous investigation was undertaken regarding the admissibility of evidence. I stress there was no plea-bargaining in the case. Five pleas of guilty for conspiracy to murder were entered by Nelson. There is really nothing more to be said about that. We are now looking at future supervisory arrangements.

Mr. Andrews: There is concern over the case here.

Mr. Mates: There is concern here also.

Mr. Mayhew: Yes, there is, as is evidenced by the fact that he could be prosecuted with no certainty as to the outcome.

Mr. Andrews: I am querying the public perception of this individual. There are many questions which have not been answered. We'll come back to this.

Mr. Mayhew: Can I ask Mr. Mates to deal with accompaniment?

Mr. Mates: I have felt somewhat in the front line on this for the last two years, as a member of the British-Irish Parliamentary Body. Austin Curry and Garret FitzGerald are both articulate members of the Body who have raised this issue with me. I am very heartened to note that the level of accompaniment has gone up since the beginning of the Anglo-Irish Agreement. The question you raise regarding complaints is a vexed one. Many complaints are received and we can't chase them all down. Furthermore, many are based solely on the evidence of what a person has seen. It may be that he has only seen part of a joint patrol which has been split temporarily for tactical reasons. Furthermore, if the number of patrols is increased, then the number of unaccompanied patrols may be seen to rise. I would emphasise that since we

agreed to give figures, a special effort has been made in sensitive areas. I would contrast, for example the situation between North Antrim and South Armagh. There is the added problem that in difficult areas patrols tend to be military in scope rather than something that fits within the framework of normal policing. There can be patrols that last for up to five days. It would be very difficult to find police to participate in these patrols. I would state that we are aware of the sensitivity of the issue both for you and for Nationalist politicians. I can assure you we will look into it and act in the spirit of the Hillsborough Communique. Sir Hugh has something to say on this also.

Mr. Annesley: I would just say that more police on the streets means that less are available for accomplishment. We are now entering the parade season when this will become an important consideration. Also, it would be wrong to cancel a Planned patrol simply because of the lack of police, but I can assure you that we all recognise the principle and do our best to act on it.

Mr. Mates: I agree with that point. With regard to the UDR-RIR merger, I understand that the intention of the GOC is to make sure that this move should in no way alter the existing practice which takes account of sensitivities regarding the deployment of the UDR in certain areas. While he must have operational flexibility, his intention is clear. Moreover, it is in his interest and of that of the new regiment that the amalgamation should not be seen as anything other than a military rationalisation. The Royal Irish Rangers have had several successive tours of duty here.

Mr. Flynn: I am pleased to hear your words, but from the latest statistics on accomplishment, there has been a decrease in the level.

Mr. Mates: Yes, because there has been an increase in the number of patrols.

Mr. Flynn: We welcome the commitment from Sir Patrick that the understanding on accompaniment in the Hillsborough Communique will apply to the Regiment.

Mr. Mayhew: Yes, I don't want to get involved in legalistic interpretation but we attach importance to the Communique and to the principle of accompaniment.

Mr. Andrews: I agree with this and I am pleased to hear you say that the spirit of the Communique will be adhered to. But you recognise of course our national sensitivities in the matter.

Mr. Mates: With regard to strip-searching, I just want to say that I understand this a very sensitive issue. We, as well as most other European countries including yourselves, have it for extreme situations. The incident referred to at Maghabery followed what was believed to be a breach of security. I might add that the search was conducted in the presence of two members of the Board of Visitors and one chaplain. People seek to make capital out of the issue.

With regard to the killing of Danny Cassidy, the Chief Constable wants to say something.

Mr. Annesley: Can I state that a murder enquiry is under way in this case and a complaint is being investigated under the supervision of the Independent Commission for Police Complaints. Cassidy was a well known PIRA supporter. He was not, as has been alleged, pointed out by the special RUC Mobile Support Unit. He was known to be a PIRA supporter because of his acquaintanceship with explosives, his presence at IRA funerals etc. Don't let me be misunderstood. He was not set up as a result of being stopped by the RUC.

Mr. Andrews: An investigation is ongoing?

Mr. Annesley: Yes.

Mr. Mayhew: Now we come to Lethal Force.

I have taken a special interest in Section 3 of the 1967 Criminal Law (Northern Ireland) Act. I am looking closely at whether this could permit of an adjustment to allow for degrees of varied culpability. At the moment the only two alternative available charges are murder and manslaughter. I think that the Criminal Law could be developed to recognise degrees of criminal culpability and I am looking at it. (I am aware of the interest in this issue which was raised with me at last year's meeting of the British-Irish Association.) Is it OK if we leave this subject like that today?

Mr. Andrews: Fine, but can I mention some specific cases to you? I raised these at the Conference on 6 March. The cases include:

- the Coalisland shooting (4 IRA men shot dead by British Army on 15 February 1992);
- John McNeill (killed by security forces on the Whiterock Road on 13 January 1990);
- Kevin McGovern (shot dead in controversial circumstances on 29 September 1991);
- a number of cases in West Belfast in 1990 and 1991 (Gerald McGinn, Karen Reilly and Martin Peake).

I note that in the Caragher case, which we also discussed, the soldier charged with the killing was last week committed for trial. Perhaps rather than getting into the detail of these cases now we could ask our officials in the Secretariat to follow them up?

Mr. Mayhew: I have a whole list of cases. Some are awaiting referral to the DPP, some are awaiting a report back from the DPP.

Mr. Andrews: Yes, but some of the cases are still on our agenda.

Can I now bring up the subject of Border Road Closures? We have dealt with it in the Restricted Session. Of the 180 usable roads across the Border, 110 have been closed by the British Army. There have been negative social and economic

effects on communities North and South of the Border arising from these closures. Recently I visited several of the communities affected, specifically Clones and Kilticlogher. While I am aware of the security situation, I feel it is a most unfortunate situation that on the Border adjoining South Armagh and adjoining Leitrim there are no roads open. I wish to put on record my concern over this issue and my feeling that some could be reopened. I hope we can send the matter to the Secretariat to examine prospects for opening some roads.

Mr. Mayhew: I'd rather we made no mention in the Communique of the Secretariat dealing with the issue. All of us recognise the sensitivity of the issue and the frustration consequent on closure of a road. However, there is a need to provide reasonable security for vulnerable people. We have undertaken to examine the matter but I would observe that any reopening of a road will require Garda and Irish Army presence on your side.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL MATTERS

Mr. Mayhew: Can we take briefly the third item on our agenda, the "good news item" and can we deal with it in a broad brush way? We recognise that economic and social issues have a role to play in defeating terrorism. We very much welcome the inclusion of these items in the Conference. Is that sufficient? We have a problem over the rail link between Dublin and Belfast and the proposals to up-grade it. We are anxious to have an announcement on this. We understand that there is now agreement between the two relevant Departments concerned and would like to announce your Government's readiness to proceed in the matter.

Mr. Andrews: Yes. Peter Brooke wanted an announcement. We can do it now today.

Mr. Mayhew: I am sure it will benefit both sides of the Border. With regard to subjects for next Conference I understand you have Forestry and we have Government Purchasing.

Mr. Flynn: Forestry has taken on a new dimension in the environmental area. There could be a useful discussion on it.

Mr. Mayhew: Could we note that, in accepting these two items we could also broaden into other areas?

In conclusion, could I state that I couldn't have hoped for a more congenial and cooperative atmosphere than has been present today.

Mr. Andrews: I very much agree. I think also we should praise the hard work of the Secretariat who do not always get the credit they deserve.

Mr. Flynn: I would like to wish you luck in your endeavours.

(In the course of the informal discussion which followed regarding the content of the Communique, Mr. Bell asked whether the discussion on Forestry at the next Conference should be broadened to a discussion on environmental matters.

Mr. Flynn question the wisdom of this. It was agreed to delete from the Communique references to specific economic and social topics for discussion at the next Conference meeting.)

The Conference adjourned at 13.10 hrs.