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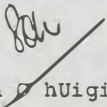
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Note of Meeting between the Taoiseach and Vice-President Gore
Washington, 16th March, 1993

1. After the initial courtesies The Taoiseach gave the Vice-President an account of the situation in Northern Ireland. The Taoiseach stressed the need for political dialogue and summarised the experience of the Talks to date. He said that it was unlikely they could resume before the local government elections in May. The two Governments would use the interval to work towards their resumption. He stressed his belief that the two Governments needed to take charge of the process of negotiations and give direction to it. There was no benefit in short-term expedients. A long term approach was the only thing which would work.
2. The Taoiseach expressed his appreciation of the interest and concern of President Clinton and his Administration in the problem. It was in everybody's interest that this concern should be brought to bear in a constructive and not in a divisive manner. It would be open to the President to consider an exploratory or fact-finding mission in the first instance to give him the basis for a decision on how this might best be done.
3. Vice-President Gore reaffirmed in very general terms the US concern and said that it would be wonderful if this tragic problem could be solved. Ambassador Gallagher said that a successful solution could possibly be a model for other ethnic conflicts.
4. The Taoiseach then turned to the proposed changes in US rules on tax deferral. He described in some detail the position in Ireland and the seriously disproportionate effect which the US Treasury proposal would have on Ireland.

He stressed that the involvement of US multi-nationals in Ireland was "good business in both directions" and sustained many jobs in the United States as well as in Ireland. The Vice-President took note of the Taoiseach's concern but did not go into detail in the response.

5. There was then a discussion of GATT issues. There was general acceptance of the importance of finding agreement in this area. The Vice-President indicated that the Administration was likely to look for a fairly short extension of the fast-track procedure.
6. There was a brief discussion of environmental issues which are of particular interest to Vice-President Gore. The Taoiseach recalled that they discussed these issues at the Rio Conference. The Vice-President said that since then 100 million extra people had been born into the world. There had been an increase in damage to the ozone layer. He expressed interest in receiving a copy of a recent environmental report on Ireland which the Taoiseach mentioned to him.
7. At the end of the meeting, The Taoiseach again expressed his appreciation of the interest and concern of the US in relation to the Northern Ireland problem. As a friend to both Governments and to both communities, the US influence could be enormously helpful if brought to bear in a constructive way. At the conclusion of the meeting, he invited the Vice-President to visit Ireland.


Seán Ó hUiginn
19 March, 1993