



**An Chartlann Náisiúnta**  
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NOTE

Northern Ireland section of discussion between  
the Tánaiste and the Foreign Secretary  
Friday, 30 April, 1993

cc PSS  
Frank Rice  
Amb's Gordon + W. to  
Mr. F. Murray  
Mr. T. Dalton  
JDL  
3/5

1. The Tánaiste recalled that both Governments were at one in trying to get the round table talks restarted, in spite of the difficulties in the way. The Irish Government were strongly committed to this objective and he knew that Sir Patrick Mayhew was also. The two Governments, the SDLP and Alliance parties were ready to resume Talks. The local government elections inhibited the unionists, but once those elections were out of the way, he hoped everyone could revert to the agenda of the Talks. In the meantime the Governments and parties should try not to cause problems for each other.
2. Mr. Hurd said the British had been pleased by the constructive and businesslike way in which matters had been tackled and they hoped to respond in kind. He was not responsible for the week-to-week management of Northern Ireland affairs, but he would keep increasingly in touch. The Irish side could be assured that the British Government had no intention of reverting to a purely internal approach, which was not operative. All the relationships were relevant to each other. The British paper which had been promised would cover this issue. They would show this to the Irish Government before the parties, although they would not be saying so in public. Progress was painfully slow and there always seemed to be new hurdles, such as the local government elections at present. However the three-stranded approach was a better process and the atmosphere was also better than before. He felt matters were on the track which had to be pursued and the British Government would not abandon it.

3. The Tánaiste confirmed the importance which the Irish Government attached to the three-stranded process. He stressed that it was important to keep the bigger picture in mind. The facts of the situation ruled out an internal approach. The maximum consultation was needed between the two Governments.
4. Mr. Hurd referred briefly to security cooperation, saying it had improved substantially but there was always room for further improvement. He suggested the two Governments should encourage all who were concerned in the operation of security to enhance their cooperation.
5. The Tánaiste said there was clear reporting on security issues in the Intergovernmental Conferences. Security Chiefs from both sides attended and had very forthright discussions. There had been good security successes in the Irish jurisdiction recently and every effort would continue to be made.
6. The Tánaiste referred briefly to the extradition legislation which was being prepared. The Taoiseach had made clear to the Dáil the previous day that every effort was being made to bring the legislation forward as rapidly as possible.
7. Mr. Hurd referred to the helpful impact of President Robinson's visits to Britain. He referred to the courtesy call envisaged for her next visit and wondered if it would be possible to move to the stage beyond that, so as to make her an official guest at some point. He would not propose to pursue this idea if it caused difficulties on the Irish side, but the idea should not be excluded. Visits of members of the Royal Family to Ireland were now being regarded as routine. The Tánaiste said this was an on-going process and the boundaries were being pushed out. He agreed with the suggestion of Secretary Dorr that it would be

prudent to take fences one at a time.

8. Reverting to the Talks process, Mr. Hurd said that although he did not now read the Northern or Dublin newspapers, his impression was that the process was getting a better reception.
  
9. The Tánaiste said it was difficult to disentangle perception and reality. He was optimistic on the subject and working hard to make it a reality. It was only when the Governments said what solution they wanted that the attitude of the public would be really known. But it was important to encourage people to be open-minded. There would have to be compromise and a way found for people to co-exist. The problem had baffled everyone for a very long time. The task now was to get back into the process and see if people could be brought along. This was not easy, but it had to be done. Mr. Hurd concurred in this analysis.