



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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Government Statement
Wednesday 11th January, 1995

At its meeting this morning the Government decided to take steps to strengthen the resources being applied to the challenging and critically important work of consolidating the progress towards peace and reconciliation in Ireland. There are many delicate and sensitive tasks involved - including the completion of the Joint Framework Document, the negotiations that the Government hopes will follow, and the need to consolidate and maintain support for the whole process, within communities and in the wider international framework.

As a first step, and in recognition of the priority accorded by Government to the whole process, the Government has decided to create a new post of Second Secretary in the Department of Foreign Affairs. This post will be filled by Mr. Sean O’Huiginn, at present head of the Anglo-Irish Division of the Department.

Working under the general direction of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Secretary of the Department, Mr. O’Huiginn will head up the Anglo-Irish Division, provide services for the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Northern Ireland, coordinate all policy execution in relation to Northern Ireland and Anglo-Irish matters, and maintain and develop international support for the process.

Mr O’Huiginn has been head of the Anglo-Irish Division since 1991. In that capacity, he was centrally involved in the negotiation and drafting of the Joint Declaration, and chairs the Liaison Group negotiating the Joint Framework Document.

Prior to being appointed as head of the Anglo-Irish Division Mr. O’Huiginn served in Berne, New York, Saudia Arabia and Denmark. He was head of the Anglo-Irish Secretariat in Maryfield from 1987 to 1990. A native of Co. Mayo he was born in 1944 and educated in St. Jarlath’s College Tuam, University College Galway and the University of Bordeaux. Mr. O’Huiginn is married with two children.