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C O N F I D E N T I A L

ANGLO-IRISH INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE

JOINT RECORD OF MEETING HELD ON 2 NOVEMBER 1988
IN STORMONT CASTLE, BELFAST

Present :

British Side

Mr King
Mr Stewart
Sir John Blelloch
Mr Spence
Mr Stephens
Mr Burns
Mr Fenn

Irish Side

Mr Lenihan
Mr Collins
Mr Dorr
Mr Mathews
Mr Gallagher
Mr Brosnan
Mr O Donovan

Secretariat

Mr Miles
Mr Masefield
Mr Canavan

Mr O hUiginn
Mr Collins
Mr Ryan

1. Ministers conferred privately for over an hour, discussing, among other matters, the Review of the working of the Conference on which selected Officials were then briefed. Ministers were agreed that the Review should be both thorough and forward looking. After these private discussions, they were joined by the Chief Constable of the RUC, the Garda Commissioner and four officials for a restricted meeting which is recorded separately. The Chief Constable and Commissioner then withdrew and the Conference met in plenary session.

2. Ministers reported that, in private discussion on extradition, they had also discussed the use of extra-territorial legislation.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

E. R.

The British side repeated that they did not consider proceedings under that legislation to be a substitute for extradition. The Irish side agreed but added that they regarded the two ways of dealing with fugitive offenders as parallel and complementary. They suggested that Working Group II (which was to meet shortly) should consider arrangements for procedures which would identify at an early stage those cases which might be most suitable for extra-territorial route. The British side agreed with this general approach, but emphasised that the prime responsibility for proceeding against fugitive offenders lay with the Attorney General.

3. Shortly before the meeting the Irish side had conveyed their reactions to an earlier British draft record of discussions between the two sides on relations between the security forces and the community in Northern Ireland and on building more confidence in the system of justice. Both sides agreed that they would need to consider the subject further before the next meeting. The British side agreed to the Irish request that the intention to deal with this subject should be signalled in the joint statement.

4. The Conference discussed briefly proposals for new Northern Ireland fair employment legislation. The British side reported that preparation was well advanced. Officials were due to discuss the subject further in the following week.

5. The British side reported that in their earlier private discussion Ministers had agreed that it would be desirable to prepare a report on the achievements of the Agreement, which might be made public, for example in response to a Parliamentary Question.

6. The Conference then turned to the preparation of a joint statement. In the discussion on the section on the Review, the British side stressed the need for sensitivity in the choice of language while the Irish side stressed the importance it attached to the Review as the major issue at the meeting. In the latter context there was a discussion on the relative positions of the sections on

C O N F I D E N T I A L

E. R.

the Review and security matters in the Joint Statement. It was agreed, after further consideration that there should be no substantive reference to those Confidence measures which had already been taken by the British side.

7. The Conference agreed to meet again shortly.

8. The joint statement, a copy of which is attached, was issued following the meeting.

SECRETARIAT
DECEMBER 1988

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