

Ref: A04149



Prime Minister

(2)

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MR. ALEXANDER

mf

*Looks like a sensible outcome.
Para 4 is interesting & helpful provided
the Haughey envisages the next
meeting as being after rather than
before the election.*

Anglo-Irish Joint Studies

We had an uneventful first meeting of the Steering Group for these studies this morning.

2. The representatives of the Irish Government agreed without difficulty with our proposals for conducting the studies. We agreed draft terms of reference with them: they accepted our drafts for the 5 working groups, subject to minor changes of drafting, and we accepted a brief preamble suggested by them which referred back to the Dublin communique. I attach the terms of reference agreed at the meeting; these are ad referendum on both sides, though the only caveat put on the table related to the wording of the terms of reference for item 2 of the joint study on security matters, where the representative of the Irish Government wanted to make sure that their Department of Justice was content with what was proposed.

3. We also agreed on arrangements for handling Parliamentary and Press inquiries. We agreed a "Text for the Record" (copy attached), which confirms the basis for a draft answer to a Parliamentary Question which I have submitted separately to Mr. Sanders. We agreed that it was of the utmost importance to keep confidential all details of the composition, terms of reference and working methods of the working parties. We agreed to stand on this "Text for the Record" and to consult with each other in advance, if it seemed to either of us necessary to go any further than that. We also agreed, however, that it could be made unattributably clear to the Press that Ministers were not expected to be involved in these studies until the time came to report back to the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach and that the Steering Group was led on the British side by the Secretary of the Cabinet and on the Irish side by the Secretary of the Government.

4. The Secretary of the Government made it clear to me in private conversation that the Taoiseach was expecting to call a General Election some time within the next 6 months, and that he did not expect or wish to



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see any outcome of the joint studies until after his own election and the district council elections in Northern Ireland which are due to take place on 20th May. We noted that we should need to report to the next meeting of the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach; and it became clear in my private conversation with Mr. Nally that the Taoiseach was hoping that the meeting could be held in July 1981, and would not be postponed until the autumn.

RA

Robert Armstrong

30th January 1981

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TEXT FOR THE RECORD

The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach agreed in Dublin on 8th December to commission joint studies at official level in the fields of possible new institutional structures, citizenship rights, security matters, economic co-operation, and measures to encourage mutual understanding. These studies are being conducted by official working parties under the supervision of a steering group of senior officials. The progress of these studies will be reported to the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach for their next meeting some time later this year.

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR ANGLO-IRISH JOINT STUDIES

Having regard to the degree of mutual understanding reached by the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach at their meetings on 21 May and 8 December 1980 as expressed in the communiqués issued following those meetings and in particular the reference to the need to bring forward policies and proposals

(1) to achieve peace, reconciliation and stability

and

(2) to improve relations between the peoples of the two countries,

the Working Groups are asked to make proposals to assist the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach in their special consideration of the totality of relationships within these islands.

The terms of reference of the Working Groups are as follows:

A. JOINT STUDY ON POSSIBLE INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES

1. To identify possible new institutional structures which might help in achieving the broad objectives described in the Communiqués of 21 May and 8 December, including the scope for improving existing arrangements for co-operation and consultation.

2. To consider the role of any new institutional structures in relation to measures which might be recommended in the other joint studies.

B. JOINT STUDY ON CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS

1. To review the rights and privileges accorded to citizens of each country while residing within the jurisdiction of the other, including those relating to voting, social security, employment and consular protection; to compare these with the rights and privileges enjoyed by citizens of the host country; and to consider whether these rights and privileges could be further assured, harmonised and extended on a mutual basis.

2. To review the obligations and duties of citizens of each country residing within the jurisdiction of the other, including those in respect of taxation and jury service; and to compare these with the obligations and duties of citizens of the host country.

3. To consider any anomalies revealed by these reviews and whether they might usefully be rectified.

C. JOINT STUDY ON SECURITY MATTERS

1. To consider and make recommendations on the scope for increased co-operation, as fellow members of the western community, over the arrangements made by each of the two countries to ensure their security internationally in modern circumstances.
2. To review co-operation between the authorities of the United Kingdom and of the Republic of Ireland concerning the administration and working of the criminal law.

D. JOINT STUDY ON ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

To examine the scope for still closer economic and technical co-operation, both bilaterally and in the context of membership of the European Community, including the possibilities for -

- i. resolving differences, and removing obstacles, which may inhibit economic or social development;
- ii. reducing the impact of the land and sea frontiers on the everyday lives of the peoples of both countries;
- iii. further facilitating trade and communications;
- iv. mutually beneficial collaboration in respect of industrial and regional development and energy;
- v. harmonising and/or co-ordinating the position of the two countries in multilateral economic and technical organisations.

E. JOINT STUDY ON MEASURES TO ENCOURAGE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING

1. To analyse the reasons for misconceptions in each country over attitudes and Government policies in the other.
2. To consider measures which the two Governments might take, jointly or separately, to remove such misconceptions and improve mutual understanding; including measures in the fields of youth and other exchanges, secondment of officials, and co-operation over educational, scientific and cultural matters.
3. To consider measures which might be taken in co-operation with non-governmental organisations.