

JOINT STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER
AND THE TAOISEACH ISSUED FROM 10 DOWNING
STREET AT 18.15 ON WEDNESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 1979

The Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP, had discussions today 5 September at No 10 Downing Street with the Taoiseach, Mr John Lynch TD, who was accompanied by Mr George Colley TD, Tanaiste and Minister of Finance and Mr Michael O'Kennedy TD, Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Rt Hon The Lord Carrington, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, and the Rt Hon Humphrey Atkins MP, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland were present. The talks were preceded by a working lunch also attended by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe QC, MP and by the Lord Privy Seal, the Rt Hon Sir Ian Gilmour Bt MP.

The talks took place in the context of Anglo-Irish relations, the European Community and international developments generally. The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister agreed on their determination to stamp out terrorism. They agreed that recent events require that the present extensive co-operation between the authorities of the two countries must now be substantially improved. For this purpose a number of suggestions were made by both governments which will now be actively followed up. There will be a further meeting at Ministerial level in about three weeks to review the progress which has been made in the development of these proposals.

The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach exchanged views about the prospects for political movement in Northern Ireland. The Prime Minister confirmed that Her Majesty's Government's policy was to seek an acceptable way of restoring to the people of Northern Ireland more control over their own affairs; Her Majesty's Government would make moves to that end at the appropriate time. The Taoiseach indicated the need for any form of administration in Northern Ireland to be acceptable to both sides of the community there.

On European Community affairs, matters likely to be raised under the presidency of Mr Lynch at the European Council in Dublin in November were discussed.

Both Prime Ministers agreed to maintain regular contact.