

7.11.83

COMMUNIQUE

1. The Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, FRS, MP, and the Taoiseach, Dr Garret Fitzgerald, TD, met at Chequers today in the first meeting of the Anglo-Irish Inter-Governmental Council to be held at the level of Heads of Government. The Prime Minister was accompanied by the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, the Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, MP, and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Rt Hon James Prior, MP. The Taoiseach was accompanied by the Tanaiste, Mr Dick Spring, TD and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Peter Barry, TD.

2. They recalled the Joint Communique issued after their meeting of 6 November, 1981, which announced the setting up of the AIIC, and which they agreed formed the framework for the continuing development of the relationship between their two Governments.

3. The two Heads of Government discussed current issues in Anglo-Irish relations including the situation in Northern Ireland. They expressed their deep concern about continuing violence and their joint determination to take all possible means to end it. The Taoiseach briefed the Prime Minister in relation to the work of the New Ireland Forum.

4. They reviewed the state of work in the Anglo-Irish Inter-Governmental Council at both Ministerial and official levels. In this connection they considered a joint report reviewing co-operation between the two countries since the publication of the Anglo-Irish Joint Studies in November 1981. They approved this report which deals with institutional structures, citizenship rights, security matters, economic co-operation and measures to encourage mutual understanding. They agreed that the report, with the exception of the section on security matters, should be issued as an annex to this Communique.

5. They welcomed the recent establishment of the Encounter Organisation which they believe will contribute to the improvement of relations between their peoples in the interests of peace, reconciliation and stability.

6. They welcomed the satisfactory conclusion of negotiations for the supply of Kinsale gas to Northern Ireland.

7. The two Heads of Government also discussed a wide range of international issues. In particular, they reviewed the main issues current in the Community discussions notably the future financing of the Community, the Community budget, the Common Agriculture Policy and the enlargement of the Community.

8. They looked forward to further meetings of the Anglo-Irish Inter-Governmental Council at Heads of Government level at regular intervals.

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