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The Prime Minister, ~~of the United Kingdom,~~ ^{the} the Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher FRS MP, and the Taoiseach, Dr. Garret FitzGerald TD, met at Chequers on 18 and 19 November 1984 in the second meeting of the Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental Council to be held at the level of Heads of Government.

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The Prime Minister was accompanied by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, ^{the} the Right Honourable Sir Geoffrey Howe QC MP, and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, The Right Honourable Douglas Hurd CBE MP. The Taoiseach was accompanied by Mr. Dick Spring TD, Tanaiste and Minister for the Environment and by Mr. Peter Barry TD, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach exchanged views on European Community matters, including enlargement to admit Spain and Portugal, progress in creating the internal market, the economic and social situation, including employment trends, and the future development and financing of the Community.

The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach also reviewed current issues in international affairs, including the efforts to relieve famine in Ethiopia and other countries in Africa.

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/ The Prime Minister

The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach had an extensive and constructive exchange of views on developments in relation to Northern Ireland since their last major bilateral meeting one year ago. In their discussions they took fully into account the position of the British Government as set out in the debate in the House of Commons on 2 July 1984; the report of the New Ireland Forum; and the proposals of ~~the~~ constitutional democratic parties in Northern Ireland as set out in the ~~respective~~ documents which ~~each has~~ ^{have been} published in recent months. ~~The following~~

The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach agreed that it was a major interest of both their countries, as well as of both the majority and minority communities in Northern Ireland, that there should be lasting peace and stability in Northern Ireland, ~~and in the island of Ireland as a whole.~~

The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach agreed on the need for efforts to diminish the divisions between the two sections of the communities in Northern Ireland and to reconcile the two major traditions that exist in the two parts of Ireland. ^{N.I.F.} The Taoiseach affirmed that this reconciliation could come about only on the basis of mutual respect as between these traditions, ^{to} the achievement of which he and his Government are totally committed.

The Taoiseach also reaffirmed that it remained the wish of the Irish Government that the two parts of Ireland should come together by freely negotiated agreement and in peace, but recognised

that any change in the constitutional status of Northern Ireland as part of the United Kingdom would only come about with the consent of a majority of the people of Northern Ireland.

The Prime Minister reaffirmed that Northern Ireland was part of the United Kingdom and that the majority in Northern Ireland wanted it to remain so. At the same time she confirmed that, if in the future the majority of the people of Northern Ireland clearly wished for and consented to a change in the constitutional status of Northern Ireland the United Kingdom Government would put forward and support legislation to that end in the British Parliament.

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The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach agreed that:

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(i) any attempt to promote political objectives by means of violence or the threat of violence must be rejected, as must those who adopt or support such methods;

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(ii) the identities of both the majority and the minority communities in Northern Ireland should be recognised and respected ~~and reflected in the process of government in such a way as may be acceptable to the two communities in Northern Ireland;~~

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process of government in such a way as may be acceptable to the two communities in Northern Ireland;

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(iii) ~~the policies of both Governments and the~~ process of government in Northern Ireland itself should be such as to provide the people of both communities with the confidence that their rights will be safeguarded.

The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach reaffirmed their commitment to the maintenance and where possible the improvement of co-operation between their two Governments in matters of security.

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The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach agreed that in the light of ~~the~~ discussion there should be close and continuing dialogue on these subjects between the two Governments in the framework of the Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental Council, with a view to further meeting between them within the coming months.

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The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach ^{also} reviewed the work done under the auspices of the Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental Council at both Ministerial and Official levels on political, economic, security and cultural matters. They noted that much detailed work was continuing at official level, and looked forward to further meetings of the Council at all levels.

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