

PRIME MINISTER

ANGLO-IRISH SUMMIT: PRESS CONFERENCE

I attach:

- A. Bernard's Notes about the Press Conference.
- B. The draft of your opening statement.
- C. Answers to questions about the status of Northern Ireland.
- D. Your line to the Taoiseach on Mixed Courts.
- E. A line to take - if you can - on the Northern Ireland Judiciary.
- F. The Taoiseach's opening statement.

Bull points are:

*On behalf of U.K.I.C*

(i) *I* You went into this Agreement because ~~you were~~ <sup>you</sup> were not prepared to tolerate a situation of continuing ~~loss of life~~ <sup>violence</sup> and despair. You want to offer hope, to young people particularly, that the cycle of violence and conflict can be broken. ~~This reflects the sentiments of the Forum Report.~~

(ii) Of course you do not claim to be solving the Northern Ireland problem. You are trying to make a contribution to a better future for Northern Ireland. *A way forward.*

(iii) ~~Nothing in the Agreement affects the status of Northern Ireland as part of the United Kingdom or in any way diminishes our sovereignty.~~ *I* we believe in the Union and it will last as long as the majority so wish. ~~You recognise that the Taoiseach has a different starting point.~~

*The legitimacy of the Unionist position has been reaffirmed by the British vice foreign minister.*

(iv) The Agreement offers <sup>steady</sup> systematic co-operation between the United Kingdom and the Republic. The Agreement is only partly about Northern Ireland: it is also more widely about relations between the United Kingdom as a whole and the Republic.

(v) There is nothing new in the fact that the Republic has views, opinions and proposals to offer about the North. What do they think you and the Taoiseach talk about? We acknowledge the reality of this, and the Intergovernmental Conference provides a <sup>regular</sup> ~~more systematic~~ means for those views and proposals to be put forward. The United Kingdom will discuss them, try to reach agreement in good faith - but will in the end decide.

(vi) Co-operation in the Intergovernmental Conference is a two-way street. We shall wish to pursue matters affecting the Republic in the interests of the people of Northern Ireland, for instance improved security co-operation and economic co-operation. The spirit of the Agreement is not one of <sup>each</sup> ~~them~~ interfering in <sup>the other's</sup> ~~our~~ affairs: it is both sides working together on problems which affect both the North and the Republic.

(vii) The Agreement is a positive incentive to devolved government in Northern Ireland, because if a system of devolved government acceptable to both communities can be devised, then the matters with which the devolved government deals will be taken out of the hands of the Intergovernmental Conference. We shall be doing our utmost to achieve that devolved government.

(viii) ~~You are determined to make the Agreement work effectively. [But prudently both sides have made provision for review of how the Agreement functions in practice.]~~

Charles Powell  
14 November 1985

*I say to the people of Northern Ireland: take this opportunity which this agreement gives you.*

Draft Opening Statement for the Prime Minister at the  
Press Conference following an Anglo-Irish Summit

*30 June* Dr FitzGerald and I have today signed an *a Summit*  
Agreement which *symbolizes the way ahead* marks a significant step forward in  
relations between our two countries and towards peace  
and reconciliation in Northern Ireland.

2. The Agreement has three main elements:

- A Preamble in which ~~various important~~  
principles, including <sup>us</sup> our total rejection of  
violence and our recognition of the validity of  
both traditions in Northern Ireland, ~~are set~~  
~~out.~~
- An Article in which the two Governments affirm  
that any change in the status of Northern  
Ireland would only come about with the consent  
of a majority of the people of Northern Ireland;  
recognise that the present wish of a majority is  
for no change; and declare that, if in the  
future a majority formally consent to a united  
Ireland, the two Governments will support  
legislation accordingly.

- Articles establishing, ~~within the framework of the Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental Council~~, a new Intergovernmental Conference concerned both with Northern Ireland and with relations between the two parts of Ireland. The Irish Republic will be able to put forward views and proposals in the Conference on stated aspects of Northern Ireland affairs; and determined efforts will be made to resolve any differences. *We shall do*  
*The Conference*  
*will also deal with cross-border co-operation on*  
*security, economic, social and cultural matters,*  
*including the enhancement of cross-border*  
*co-operation in combating terrorism. Full*  
*responsibility for the decisions and*  
*administration of government will remain with*  
*the United Kingdom north of the border and with*  
*the Republic south of the border.*

*The Conference will be served by a secretariat on a continuing basis*

3. We have also issued today a communiqué on our meeting, which says that the new Intergovernmental Conference will concentrate in its initial meetings on relations between the security forces and the minority community in Northern Ireland, on ways of improving security co-operation between the two

Governments, and on seeking measures which would underline the importance of public confidence in the administration of justice.

4. I shall be making a statement to Parliament about the Agreement on Monday. A full debate will take place shortly afterwards. The Agreement will enter into force only after both Parliaments have approved it.

5. By promoting peace and stability and by enhancing our co-operation against terrorism, the Agreement will bring benefits to all the people of Northern Ireland. I hope that it will also open the way for moves towards devolution in Northern Ireland.

6. I believe that this Agreement represents a positive contribution to progress on this long-standing and difficult problem. The two Governments are committed to implementing it fully and effectively. We call on all people of goodwill to join us in promoting peace.