

PRIME MINISTER'S TALKS WITH MR. LYNCH

We read out the Communique attached, stressing that it was a joint statement by the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach on their talks.

Regarding the length of the talks, the lunch had commenced at 1.00 (guest list attached) and ended at about 2.30. The Prime Minister had then had a 45 minute tête-à-tête with the Taoiseach, there had then been a short break and the plenary session had started at about 3.30 and ended at 6 p.m. The discussion at the working lunch had concentrated on EEC matters (if asked, this included the question of Britain's Budgetary contribution) and the plenary session had been entirely about the security situation in Ireland. We could not say what specific subjects were discussed during the Prime Minister's tête-à-tête session with the Taoiseach.

We said we were unable to go into detail on the suggestions put forward during the meeting and referred to in the Communique, but correspondents could assume that the suggestions were to do with improving security and the follow up mentioned in the Communique would be to examine these various suggestions, which had come from both the British and Irish sides, to see if they were practicable. The meeting in three weeks time, referred to in the Communique, would be at the Atkins/O'Kennedy level.

Regarding the tone of the talks, we said that, as well as being full and frank, they had been pragmatic and both sides had "got down to a lot of detail".

We said that the discussions about political initiatives to deal with the situation in Northern Ireland had been very brief and we could not offer any guidance on what HMG considered as "the appropriate time" for such an initiative.

We were asked whether the suggestions included items in the so-called "shopping list" such as "hot pursuit" but declined to be drawn. Asked whether the suggestions referred to in the

Communique had been agreed in principle by the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach, we said that we could not go that far. Suggestions for improving security had been put forward by both sides and needed now to be examined before being followed up at the Ministerial meeting envisaged in three weeks time. We did not expect any of the suggestions put forward to involve immediate changes in legislation, either here or ^mthe Republic.

In agreeing to keep in regular contact, the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach had not fixed another meeting but would, of course, keep in constant touch, as necessary.

CVA

GUEST LIST FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S LUNCH
FOR MR. LYNCH AT 10 DOWNING STREET ON WEDNESDAY,
5 SEPTEMBER 1979 AT 1.00 P.M. FOR 1.15 P.M. IN THE
SMALL DINING ROOM

Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary
Chancellor of the Exchequer
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
Lord Privy Seal
Mr. M. D. M. Franklin, Cabinet Office
Mr. Michael Alexander

Mr. Jack Lynch, TD - Taoiseach
Mr. G. Colley - Deputy Prime Minister
Mr. M. O'Kennedy, TD - Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr. A. O'Rourke - Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs
Mr. D. Nally - Deputy Secretary, Taoiseach's office

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.