

BRITISH VERSION: 23 NOVEMBER DRAFT
[DUBLIN JOINT STATEMENT 3 DECEMBER 1993]

1. The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach reviewed Anglo-Irish relations. They gave most attention to their shared interest in Northern Ireland.

2. They condemned recent terrorist outrages ...

3. Security co-operation ...

4. The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach recalled that in their joint statement of 29 October, issued in Brussels, they had:

- agreed that the two Governments must continue to work together in their own terms on a framework for peace, stability and reconciliation, consistent with their international obligations and their wider responsibilities to both communities;

- reaffirmed their shared attitude to political violence; urged those claiming a serious interest in advancing the cause of peace in Ireland to renounce for good the use of, or support for, violence; and made it clear that such a renunciation, if made and sufficiently demonstrated, would meet with a response from the two Governments;

- renewed their support for the objectives of the Talks process and agreed that the two Governments would continue their discussions to provide a framework to carry the process forward.

5. The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach confirmed that both Governments shared the view that a new accommodation, addressing all the relevant relationships, was best pursued through a process involving both Governments and the main constitutional parties in Northern Ireland, and agreed that the prospects for advancing this process, and for bringing it to a successful and agreed conclusion, could be further enhanced if all those who use, threaten or support violence for political ends would renounce it for good.

6. The Prime Minister and Taoiseach acknowledged that the most urgent and important issue facing the people of Ireland, North and South, and the British and Irish Governments together, is the removal of the causes of conflict, to overcome the legacy of history and to heal the divisions which have resulted, recognising that the absence of a lasting and satisfactory settlement of relationships between the people of both islands has contributed to continuing tragedy and suffering.

7. The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister were convinced of the inestimable value to both their peoples of healing divisions in Ireland and of ending a conflict which has been so manifestly to the detriment of all. Both recognised that the ending of divisions could come about only through the agreement and co-operation of the people, North and South, representing both traditions in Ireland. They therefore made a solemn commitment to promote co-operation at all levels on the basis of the fundamental principles, undertakings, obligations under international agreements, to which they have jointly committed themselves, and the guarantees which each Government had given. It was their aim to foster agreement and reconciliation, leading to a new political framework founded on consent and addressing all the relevant relationships.

8. In order to assist the development of a new political framework, which both Governments hoped could be carried forward through the Talks process, the Prime Minister and Taoiseach agreed to set out their views on relevant constitutional issues, as attached.

9. [Matters not concerning Northern Ireland]

2. The Prime Minister, on behalf of the British Government, made the following statement:

(a) The British Government reaffirms that Northern Ireland's present status as part of the United Kingdom will not change without the consent of a majority of its people.

(b) The British Government affirms that:

- (i) it has no selfish strategic or economic interest that would lead it to seek to retain Northern Ireland within the United Kingdom against the wishes of its people;
- (ii) its overriding interest is to see peace, stability and reconciliation established by agreement among all the people who inhabit the island; and
- (iii) it will continue to work with the Irish Government and the constitutional parties in Northern Ireland to achieve such an agreement, which should embrace the totality of relationships, and lead to the establishment of arrangements and institutions which reflect the principles of equality of opportunity.