

PRIME MINISTER'S TALKS WITH MR HAUGHEY IN DUBLIN ON 4 DECEMBER

political talks which took place in Northern Ireland earlier in
PRESS CONFERENCE: BRIEFING FOR THE PRIME MINISTER governments to do

all we could to help with the early launch of fresh talks.

Draft Opening Statement for the Prime Minister

The Taoiseach and I have had a very valuable discussion. We have exchanged views on current issues in the European community, on other international issues, and on the Anglo-Irish relationship.

On the EC, the Taoiseach and I have discussed the position on economic and monetary union and political union and the issues likely to arise at the European Council in Maastricht on 9-10 December, which we will both be attending.

The Taoiseach and I have again discussed important aspects of the unique relationship between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. Following on from our meetings in London and Luxembourg in the summer we have again stressed the great value of close co-operation across the totality of relations between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

The Taoiseach and I affirm once again our unreserved condemnation of recent terrorist violence, including the tit-for-tat killings by both republican and loyalist terrorists. Our joint message to the terrorists is simple: their campaigns are futile and we are determined that those who commit terrorist crime should be brought to justice.

The Taoiseach and I agreed to examine further measures to enhance cross-border security co-operation. We also reiterated the importance which we attach to the arrangements for ensuring that fugitive offenders are brought to justice.

The Taoiseach and I welcomed the valuable and constructive political talks which took place in Northern Ireland earlier in the year. We reaffirmed the commitment of both Governments to do all we could to help with the early launch of fresh talks.

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The need for political progress in NI remains - whether before or after the General Election. But there is still an opportunity for talks before the election if the basis for them can be agreed.

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5. THE TWO GOVERNMENTS SHOULD SHOW THE WAY?

Progress is best made through a process in which the four main NI political parties are participating as free agents. Imposed solutions are unlikely to command the necessary widespread support.

6. SECURITY CO-OPERATION?

There is good co-operation between the security forces. But we know that the terrorists try to exploit the border. We want to see whether more can be done to deny them that resource.