

JOINT STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE TAOISEACH ON
NORTHERN IRELAND: 29 OCTOBER 1993

Lines to take

- The Taoiseach has given the Prime Minister his account and assessment of the outcome of the Hume/Adams dialogue. He has not passed to the Prime Minister the report of this dialogue.
- The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach have accordingly not adopted or endorsed the Hume/Adams report, although they have acknowledged Mr Hume's efforts.
- They have agreed that the two Governments must continue to work together in their own terms on a framework for peace, stability and reconciliation.
- The Talks process, which also involves the main constitutional political parties in Northern Ireland, provides the best context for this.
- The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach have renewed their support for the objectives of the Talks process, and urged the Northern Ireland parties to intensify their efforts to find a basis for new talks.
- They have also condemned recent terrorist outrages, called for restraint from all members of the community in Northern Ireland, and expressed support for the security forces in their fight against all forms of terrorism.
- They have reaffirmed that there can be no talks or negotiations between their Governments and those who use, threaten or support violence for political ends.
- They have called on all those claiming a serious interest in advancing the cause of peace in Ireland to renounce for good the use of or support for violence.

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Background Note

The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach issued a full Joint Statement following their meeting in the course of the Special European Council on 29 October.

The Statement makes clear that the Taoiseach gave the Prime Minister an account of the outcome of the Hume/Adams dialogue in the light of the Irish Government's own assessment. He did not pass to the Prime Minister the report given to him by Mr Hume. Mr Hume has not submitted any report of the outcome to the British Government.

The Statement makes clear that there can be no question of adopting or endorsing the outcome of the Hume/Adams dialogue, although the Prime Minister and Taoiseach acknowledged John Hume's efforts. Instead, they agreed that the two Governments must continue to work together in their own terms on a framework for peace, stability and reconciliation. Work towards these ends has proceeded in a variety of ways, including under the Anglo-Irish Agreement. The Northern Ireland Talks process, also involving the main constitutional parties, provides the best context.

The Joint Statement takes account of, but does not repeat, the six principles set out by the Tanaiste, Mr Dick Spring, in his speech on 27 October. Instead, paragraph 6 gives a forceful joint re-affirmation of the key imperatives. The Prime Minister and Taoiseach reaffirmed that negotiations on a political settlement for Northern Ireland can only take place between democratic governments and parties committed exclusively to constitutional methods. Consequently, there can be no talks or negotiations

between the two Governments and those who use, threaten or support violence for political ends. There can be no secret agreements or understandings between Governments and organisations supporting violence as a price for its cessation. All those claiming a serious interest in advancing the cause of peace in Ireland should renounce for good the use of or support for violence. New doors could open only after a renunciation of violence had been made, and only then once it had been sufficiently demonstrated.

The Joint Statement also renews the support of the two Governments for the objectives of the Talks process involving ~~constitutional~~ ⁷ political dialogue between them and the main constitutional parties in Northern Ireland. It urges the Northern Ireland parties to intensify their efforts to find a basis for new Talks. The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach emphasise that the Talks process is vital, and that its objectives are valid and achievable. This was also the view of Sir Ninian Stephen, the independent Chairman of Strand 2 of the 1992 Talks.

The draft Statement also condemns recent terrorist outrages in Northern Ireland, calls for restraint from all members of the community, and expresses support for the security forces in their fight against all forms of terrorism.