

DRAFT STATEMENT

1. The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach discussed a range of matters of common interest, with particular focus on Northern Ireland.
2. They expressed their deep concern at and condemnation of recent terrorist action. They expressed sympathy for those bereaved and injured.
3. The Prime Minister and Taoiseach called for restraint from all members of the community in Northern Ireland; expressed support for the Chief Constable and other members of the Security Forces; and noted the recent successes of cross-border security co-operation.
4. They repudiated the use of violence for political ends and reaffirmed their determination that no political advantage should be secured through the use of terrorism. Both Governments shared an interest in denying any political dividend to those who used the bomb or the bullet.
5. 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 of this and other related matters. While they acknowledged Mr Hume's courageous and imaginative efforts, the Prime Minister and Taoiseach do not see the outcome of the Hume/Adams dialogue as in itself a basis for action by the two Governments.
6. Against this background the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach reaffirmed that:

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- there can be no talks or negotiations between their Governments and those who use, threaten or support violence for political ends; and no secret agreements or understandings with them as a price for its cessation;
- the situation in Northern Ireland should never be changed by violence or the threat of violence;
- any political development or settlement depends on consent freely given in the absence of force or intimidation;
- negotiations on a political settlement can only take place between democratic governments and parties committed exclusively to constitutional methods;
- all those, including the leaders of Sinn Fein, claiming a serious interest in advancing the cause of peace in Ireland, should renounce for good the use of or support for violence;
- if and when such a renunciation of violence had been made and sufficiently demonstrated, new doors could open, and both Governments would together wish to respond imaginatively to the new situation which would arise.

7. The Prime Minister and Taoiseach renewed their support for the Talks process involving constitutional political dialogue between the two Governments and the main constitutional parties in Northern Ireland. They regard that process as vital and will accordingly continue the discussion within it between the two Governments to provide a framework to carry it forward. They also urged the Northern Ireland parties, together with the two Governments, to renew their efforts to that end.

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