

COMMUNIQUE

1. The Taoiseach, Mr Albert Reynolds TD, and the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon John Major MP, met in London on Wednesday 16 June. The Taoiseach was accompanied by the Tanaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Dick Spring, TD, and the Minister for Justice, Mrs Maire Geoghegan-Quinn TD. The Prime Minister was accompanied by the Foreign Secretary, the Rt Hon Douglas Hurd MP and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Rt Hon Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, MP.
2. The Taoiseach and Prime Minister reviewed Anglo-Irish relations, and in particular the situation in Northern Ireland. They reaffirmed the determination of both Governments to cooperate closely, building on the solid foundation of their joint commitment to the Anglo-Irish Agreement.
3. The Taoiseach and Prime Minister deplored the loss of life and human suffering wantonly caused by terrorism. They pledged to sustain and improve the close security cooperation on both sides to ensure that the threat of violence from any quarter is confronted comprehensively by the resources of the law and that those who resort to such crimes are brought to justice.
4. The Taoiseach and Prime Minister considered the prospects for a resumption of political dialogue. They agreed on the need to address adequately all of the key relationships involved and to work towards an outcome which would accommodate and rights and identities of the two major traditions in Ireland. Their aim is to achieve a new beginning for relationships within Northern Ireland, within the island of Ireland and between the peoples of the two islands.

5. They called on the political parties in Northern Ireland to help in the search for political progress which the peoples of both islands fervently wish to see. They agreed that contacts would continue actively with the parties.
6. The Taoiseach and Prime Minister also reviewed progress in North/South economic cooperation and welcomed the full programme of work being carried out in the Anglo-Irish Conference in this field.
7. The meeting reviewed current issues on the EC agenda, especially in the perspective of the forthcoming European Council.
8. The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister will remain in close touch on the degree of political progress in Northern Ireland and will meet again in the second half of the year, maintaining their six-monthly series of meetings.

[Foreign\Ireland.MRM]