

? 3/12/84? (5)

PRIME MINISTER'S OPENING STATEMENT

Today we've had a frank discussion, which has cleared the air and gone on to make some useful progress. Altogether we've had six ministers spending [x] hours together discussing these important problems.

When the Taoiseach and I met in London in the summer of last year we set ourselves twin objectives: *First*, to bring about a permanent cessation of violence and *secondly* to establish the basis for a lasting political settlement. We have been working to achieve those objectives ever since.

In Brussels we both agreed that any initiative can only be taken by the two governments. And that there could be no question of our adopting or endorsing the report of the Hume/Adams dialogue which was recently given to the Taoiseach.

Both governments remain committed to the talks process. Today we have shared ideas about the prospects of achieving a permanent end to the violence.

Both governments have been working on a joint statement, consistent with our principles, which will address our understandings of constitutional realities and our political policies.

There is no question of bargaining for an end to the violence.

Both governments made that clear at Brussels. The Provisionals present themselves as interested in securing peace. Yet they have failed to deliver an end to violence. They should do so at once.

We have agreed there is scope for further discussions to continue our work on the joint statement. That will be taken forward by officials in the first instance. I am looking forward to meeting the Taoiseach in Brussels at the European Council at the end of next week, when we can take stock of the progress and decide how to take it forward.

...agreed framework for peace, which has been in place since early last year, and which is based on the principles articulated by the two Governments in 1998, together with the adaptation of those principles, provides the starting point for the process of ending a conflict which has been so detrimental to both their peoples of healing and ending a conflict which has been so detrimental to all. Both recognise that the only way forward was one about only through the agreement and consent of the people, North and South, representing both sides of the conflict. They therefore make a solemn commitment to work together at all levels on the basis of the fundamental principles of international law, mutual respect, and reconciliation, leading to a new political framework of consent and co-operation within a united Ireland. It is their aim to bring about a lasting peace and stability in Ireland.

1998/12/11

...the joint paper on which the basis of the talks...
...for the British side.