

NEW PARAGRAPH 11

[Non-paper]

The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister are determined to build on the fervent wish of both their peoples to see old fears and animosities replaced by a climate of peace. They believe the framework they have set out offers the people of the island of Ireland [all the people living in Ireland], whatever their tradition, the basis to agree that from now on their differences can be negotiated and resolved exclusively by peaceful political means. They appeal to all concerned to grasp the opportunity for a new departure. That step would compromise no position or principle, nor prejudice the future for either community. On the contrary, it would be an incomparable ⁱⁿgame for all. It would break decisively the cycle of violence and the intolerable suffering it entails for the people of these islands, particularly for both communities in Northern Ireland. It would allow the process of economic and social co-operation on the island to realise its full potential for prosperity and mutual understanding. It would transform the prospects for building on the progress already made in the Talks process, involving the two Governments and the constitutional parties in Northern Ireland. The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister believe that these arrangements offer an opportunity to lay the foundations for a more peaceful and harmonious future for Northern Ireland, and for the island of Ireland as a whole, devoid of the violence and bitter divisions which have scarred the past generation. They commit themselves and their Governments to continue to work together, unremittingly, towards that objective.

a sentence

Things did not work out like that. The Irish attitude evidently changed on the road to Brussels. Their position hardened on 10 December, and became intransigent on 11 December. The flexibility which they showed at the inter-Party meeting disappeared, and they reverted to the tactic of "all or nothing" propositions which they had used before the 3 December Dublin Summit. They made a late decision to add Sean o hUiggin to their Brussels team. After Friday session, Mansergh was still able to negotiate in a reasonable way, interrupted by a number of hostile outbursts from o hUiggin. By the time of our Saturday meeting, o hUiggin had de facto taken over the