

# PRESS INFORMATION

From the Office of  
Rt. Hon Neil Kinnock MP  
Leader of the Opposition

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EMBARGO: 1300 hrs Tuesday 19th June 1984

Joint Statement by the Leader of the Opposition, Rt. Hon Neil Kinnock MP, and Dick Spring TD, Leader of the Irish Labour Party.

We wish to take this opportunity of affirming the support of our parties for the recent Report of the New Ireland Forum.

In particular the New Ireland Forum recognised that:

- \* The economic depression and disadvantage and the insecurity and violence which afflict the people of Northern Ireland demand an urgent response from all parties
- \* the British Government, which exercises direct responsibility for government in Northern Ireland, has for that reason a particular responsibility for reassessing its policy
- \* a joint initiative by the Westminster and Dublin Governments is now needed in order to begin the establishment and development of common ground between both sections of the community in Northern Ireland and among all the people of Ireland.

Our Parties — like all the political parties which participated in the New Ireland Forum — reject any use of violence to secure constitutional and political objectives in Northern Ireland. Like the New Ireland Forum, we believe that

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1) copies to  
✓ Mr Powell  
10 Downing St  
(with comp slip)  
Mr Whynesall C.P.C.  
2) Softs to see

2.

the goal of British Government policy for Northern Ireland should be the achievement of a united Ireland, peacefully and by consent.

A new constitutional settlement in Ireland - whether it takes the form of a unitary state, or whether it is achieved through federation or by some other means - can only be achieved by unremitting and painstaking effort. Such effort must involve joint action in appropriate areas of policy by the Westminster and Dublin Governments. We welcome the decision already made in the Republic of Ireland to extend Irish voting rights to British citizens resident there, thus reciprocating the voting rights of Irish citizens resident in the United Kingdom.

In addition, we will jointly be considering in continuing discussions other possible areas for joint action between Dublin and Westminster. These could, for instance, include:

- \* The creation of a British-Irish Council to consider human rights and other areas of joint concern.
- \* Thorough consideration of the feasibility and implications of the development of an All Ireland police force operating under the joint agreement of both governments and having regard to the need to generate confidence throughout the whole community in law enforcement.
- \* A commitment by both governments to develop integrated economic policies suitable to the largely similar needs of the two economies in Ireland, possibly through the establishment of an All Ireland Development Council.
- \* Greater emphasis on, and publicity for the work of, the existing inter-governmental committees.
- \* Development of joint citizenship between Britain and Ireland.

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Neil Kinnock confirms his request that has already been made for an early debate in the House of Commons on the Report of the New Ireland Forum.

Ends