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ANNEX B
DRAFT PRESS LINE

The Taoiseach, paying a private visit to the UK to address the Oxford Union called on the Prime Minister today. [Language about warmth of first meeting] The Foreign Secretary, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and the Tanaiste, Mr Dick Spring, were also present.] They discussed a range of issues, including EU matters and Northern Ireland.

[EU issues]

On Northern Ireland, the two governments unreservedly condemned the recent attacks by the IRA and called for a genuine and unequivocal cease-fire to be restored immediately. They likewise condemned attacks apparently the work of Loyalists.

Both governments confirmed their commitment to the principle of consent. They stated their joint commitment to work with all the parties at the talks to make speedy progress in the negotiations, including an early resolution of the decommissioning issue. The two governments declared their joint commitment to the stated terms for Sinn Fein's participation in the negotiations and their readiness to promote substantive negotiations and a settlement without Sinn Fein if the Republican movement fails to take up the challenge of democratic politics.

Both governments condemned the recent sectarian attacks on churches and called on all those in positions of responsibility to do everything in their power to prevent these actions, and their causes.

Both governments expressed the hope that the imminent marching season would pass off peacefully. They gave their full support to the work of the Parades Commission and others in helping to achieve local accommodations.

They looked forward to a Summit meeting, during the summer, at which they would consider progress in the political talks and other significant developments affecting Northern Ireland. They noted that work will be carried on between the two governments at Ministerial level..

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