

**Joint Statement following the meeting in Downing Street between the British Prime Minister and the Taoiseach.**

The British Prime Minister, Mr Tony Blair and the Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern had very useful and wide ranging discussions on all of the issues involved in the Northern Ireland Peace Process at a lengthy meeting in Downing Street this evening.

In particular, the Prime Ministers focused on North/South Bodies. They also discussed policing, equality, prisoners and security.

While progress was made, the two Prime Ministers agreed that more work needed to be done by both Governments and they reaffirmed their commitment to work assiduously with all of the parties involved in the negotiations to achieve a fair, comprehensive and balanced settlement.

Ends.

1st April, 1998.