

[IRISH DRAFT]

Meeting between the Taoiseach and the Prime Minister, London.
9 December 1996 - Possible Communiqué Language on
TV Broadcasting Reception

1. The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister [conscious of the power of modern communications and media in promoting knowledge and understanding and dispelling misconceptions, took note of the very widespread Irish reception of television broadcasts from Britain and Northern Ireland. They] learned with satisfaction of the decisive progress made, on the basis of agreement at technical and political levels, in improving and extending the reception of the various Irish television services in Northern Ireland, without adverse effects on the reception of ~~Northern Ireland~~ the BBC and UTV, ~~broadcasters~~. They asked that current work on an Implementation Agreement be taken forward to a conclusion and looked forward to viewers in Northern Ireland benefiting as soon as possible from the resulting enlargement of their range of choice.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Notes

1. Purple prose, but we could live with it if the Irish are very attached to it.
2. Strictly speaking, the whole of the BBC and not just BBC Northern Ireland. A purely factual point.
3. DNH and NIO think "soon" is too optimistic. The necessary technical preparations will take some time, and only when test transmissions start will we know whether there are technical problems, and how serious. So they prefer either deleting "soon" or replacing it with "as soon as possible".
4. The language assumes that funding will not be an obstacle. From our point of view, that means that the Irish / RTE will pay, as envisaged in Mrs Bottomley's letter of 27 November.