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Introduction

The work of archivists, librarians, and volunteers in preserving the documentary record of the Troubles and peace process underpins much academic research, public policy-making, journalism, and the arts, and yet it rarely receives the recognition or sustained investment and support it deserves.

The artefacts and documents selected for this brochure illustrate the diversity of holdings and institutions involved. Ranging from ephemera to state papers and official oral history collections, each exhibit offers a unique insight into an individual, a community, or an institution. A petrol receipt submitted as part of a 1969 expense claim provides a glimpse into the bureaucracy of the Battle of the Bogside; Martin Sutton's Index of Deaths, an internment Christmas card, and the Prison Memories Archive are timely reminders of the human cost of the conflict; correspondence between Fr Alec Reid and John Hume and an extract of the New Ireland Forum Report record the painstaking drafting and redrafting of text, refining thinking and coining phrases that have stood the test of time; later submissions record the diligence of civil servants and take us on the final

journey to the agreement, including the formation of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition, eleventh hour negotiations, and the international recognition of the achievement.

Some of these artefacts and documents are held in the heart of the communities to which they pertain, while others, such as Senator George J. Mitchell's papers at Bowdoin College, are thousands of miles away. Projects like CAIN and Quill enable access around the world, facilitating more nuanced analysis of how progress was made and greater understanding of the challenges faced by those involved.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the archival community which stewards these collections, but also to the individuals and families which have made them available. Time is of an essence to ensure the documentary history of some of the most important decades in the history of these islands is preserved, inspiring future generations to embrace compromise and continue to work for solutions to seemingly intractable problems.

Archiving Conflict and Reconciliation Project

About The Project

The Archiving Conflict and Reconciliation project was funded by the Government of Ireland Reconciliation Fund through a grant to Pembroke College, Oxford. Its aim was to foster collaboration and workshop shared approaches to archival material relating to Northern Ireland, improving accessibility for end users and facilitating the use of digital tools.

Symposia took place at Dublin Castle in February 2025 and at Hillsborough Castle in June 2025. These events brought together archivists, librarians, and others from more than twenty institutions to review the current archival landscape and share ideas about how the history and legacy of the conflict and peace process might best be preserved for future generations. The first workshop focused on the role of the archivist, covering topics such as managing relationships with depositors, trauma-informed practice, and regulations around the release of state papers. The dialogues at Hillsborough Castle in June were more outward-facing, looking at public engagement, education, and creating an online presence.

The outputs of this project, including an online index of archival material relating to Northern Ireland and resources for archivists will be published on the Writing Peace section of the Quill website in July 2025: www.quillproject.net.

The Writing Peace Index: An Online Gateway to Archival Collections on the Northern Ireland Peace Process

The Writing Peace Index is an online resource designed to enhance access to archival materials relating to the peace process in Northern Ireland. Given the scale and complexity of the archival network, users often struggle to locate the specific records they need—or remain unaware of relevant collections altogether. The Writing Peace Index will address this challenge; the Index will act as a valuable tool by serving as a central hub, where users can discover collections embedded within their historical and thematic context.

For archivists and archival institutions, the Index acts as a valuable tool to increase the visibility of their holdings, directing users from the Index to the original repositories' websites. As an online resource, the Writing Peace Index also enables the generation of timeline visualisations, offering users a clearer understanding of how particular records and collections fit within the chronological landscape surrounding the peace process. This added context helps users make more informed decisions about which collections to explore.

Ultimately, the goal of the Writing Peace Index is to create a user-friendly gateway that brings together scattered resources, facilitating research and promoting a deeper engagement with the archival records of Northern Ireland's journey toward peace.





Museum of Free Derry



Derry - www.museumoffreederry.org/

Archive Information

The Museum of Free Derry (MoFD) focuses on the period 1968–1972, popularly known as Free Derry, that includes the civil rights era, Battle of the Bogside, Internment, Bloody Sunday and Operation Motorman. The Museum is in Glenfada Park in the Bogside, part of Free Derry, and on the site of Bloody Sunday. Our physical collection of circa 20,000 documents and artefacts covering the conflict and related fields is housed on-site at the Museum, and is mainly accessible to the public through the core exhibition. Our digital collection is accessible on-site by appointment (but will eventually be available online). The MoFD also has a growing LGBTQ archive, used to produce the *Queering the North* exhibition, with another exhibition in development, and shares ownership of the Peter Moloney collection. MoFD is currently developing the North West Civil Rights Archive, which will extend our collection to include women, workers, immigrants, language, LGBTQIA+ and disability rights, among others.

Collections Information

The conflict-related collection held by MoFD is circa 20,000 physical items, many of them of major historical importance. Most of the collection is documentary, with a smaller percentage of physical artefacts. Virtually all of the collection has come from donations by members of the local community. The focus of the collection is the civil rights and Free Derry period, but there are significant collections relating to other areas of the conflict. This includes substantial prison material in the posters collection, queer activism in *‘Queering the North’*, and a new focus on other rights-based issues through the developing North

West Civil Rights Archive. Public access to the collection is generally through the Museum of Free Derry, with our main artefacts and documents on permanent display for visitors. The museum also regularly curates temporary exhibitions which go beyond the core theme of Free Derry. MoFD also has access to a large digital collection containing tens of thousands of scanned photographs, posters, etc. covering the entirety of the conflict and a range of viewpoints. Access to our digital collection is available by appointment in a dedicated space within the museum, where visitors can browse 43,000+ digital files.

Exhibit

This is a very significant document from our collection and display, which came from a donation of items relating to the Derry Citizens’ Defence Association (DCDA), an organisation active in late 1969. This receipt for petrol, some of which was for the petrol bombs used in the Battle of the Bogside, tells us so much about this period. It wasn’t just ‘young hooligans’ rioting, it was an entire community in revolt, and the organisation of it, including the detailed paperwork that was kept, shows the involvement of other members of the community—the business people, the schoolteachers, the older generation—who were as much a part of the Battle of the Bogside as those on the frontlines. DCDA treasurer Johnny McDevitt saved all of the paperwork from this period showing the spend of all donations that came in to the DCDA, and the level of organisation that was involved. His family donated the collection to the museum after his death.

CAIN

Conflict Archive on the INternet

Derry - www.cain.ulster.ac.uk/



Collections Information

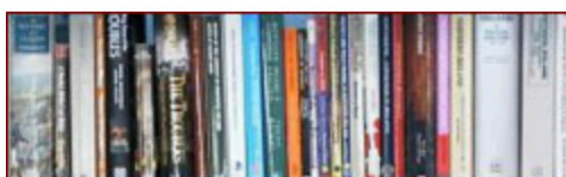
CAIN is a freely available, digital archive of source materials and information on 'the Troubles' (from 1968 to 2007) and politics in Northern Ireland. The bulk of the information is in the form of text (mostly available via databases, or within PDF files), but there are also thousands of photographs. The site is intended for those with an interest in the Northern Ireland conflict. While initially aimed at an academic audience, it has been used widely outside that sector by private individuals, community groups, organisations, agencies, media, etc. CAIN has worked with contributors from a wide range of backgrounds to help them digitise their content and make it available as an associated site within CAIN. CAIN staff also worked on a separate but related website entitled, Accounts of the Conflict.

Exhibit

Malcolm Sutton's 'An Index of Deaths from the Conflict in Ireland, 1969–2001'. The Index of Deaths on CAIN is an extended and updated version of the book that Malcolm Sutton published in 1994. Permission to hold the searchable database was provided by Malcolm Sutton, who also undertook additional research to answer the hundreds of queries that arrived into CAIN once the material was first made available. Due to this public feedback the accuracy of the information was gradually improved over time. It is an important memorial to those killed as a result of the conflict.



Background to the Conflict



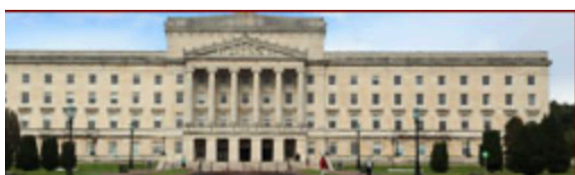
Databases and Bibliographies



Key Events



Northern Ireland Society



Key Issues

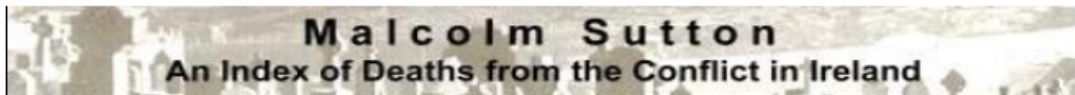


Conflict Studies

Accounts of the Conflict

A digital archive of personal accounts of the conflict in and about Northern Ireland

[CAIN Web Service](#)



Sutton Index of Deaths

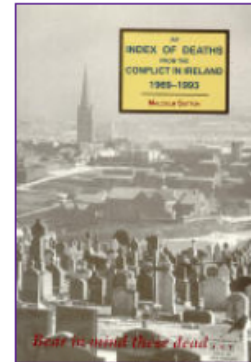
Bear in mind these dead:

I can find no plainer words

John Hewitt, Neither an elegy nor a Manifesto

This section contains information on the **deaths** that have resulted from the conflict in Ireland between **14 July 1969 and 31 December 2001**. The information has been provided by **Malcolm Sutton** and is an [updated and revised](#) version of the material that was first published in his 1994 book *Bear in mind these dead ... An Index of Deaths from the Conflict in Ireland 1969-1993*. All the information that is presented in these pages is **copyright** © of the author Malcolm Sutton. The CAIN project is grateful for the author's permission to use the information. Anyone wishing to reproduce this material should first [contact](#) the the CAIN Director. A newspaper [article](#) about Malcolm Sutton's research was published by The Guardian on 19 July 2020.

Malcolm Sutton died on 19 March 2025 (born 15 April 1947).



Sutton, Malcolm. (2001). Sutton Index of Deaths, 1969–2001. (A searchable database of information on all the deaths that occurred as a result of the conflict). CAIN: <http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/sutton/> [13871]

© Malcolm Sutton



University of Galway Library



OLLSCOIL NA
GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY
OF GALWAY

An Leabharlann
Library

Galway - www.library.universityofgalway.ie/

Archive Information

The heritage collections of University of Galway Library comprise over 400 collections dating from the fifteenth century. The archives collect and preserve a historical and contemporary record of life, society, and culture on the island of Ireland and beyond, in English and in Irish. From our bilingual heartland in the west of Ireland, the archive collections present cultural treasures that enable new discoveries and inspire new teaching, studies, learning, collaborations, exhibitions, and more through a tangible means of exploring and understanding the past. We share our collections digitally with users all over the world, connecting all to the histories and memories within the archives. Areas of collection strengths include landscape and folklore of the west of Ireland, Irish music and language, landed estates, business records, theatre, film and performing arts, literature in English and Irish, photographs, and a large collection relating to politics, conflict, and human rights in Northern Ireland.

Collections Information

An extensive body of archives relate to politics, conflict, and human rights in Northern Ireland, including the archives of:

- Brendan Duddy, mediator and peacemaker who maintained a backchannel of communication between paramilitary groups and British intelligence beginning in mid-1970s. Key papers relate to negotiations during the 1981 hunger strikes at the Maze Prison.
- Hugh Logue – collection includes early party papers of SDLP, economic and policy writings, testimony to the Saville Tribunal, advisor to Seamus Mallon at OFMDFM and post-Belfast Good Friday Agreement.
- Kevin Boyle, academic and lawyer, including papers relating to Northern Ireland Civil Rights, The New Ireland Forum, Saville Tribunal, human rights and legal cases.
- Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland. Papers relate to the New-Ireland Forum, the Anglo-Irish Agreement, as well as extensive engagement with Northern Ireland communities and politics throughout her Presidency.
- Conradh na Gaeilge – key papers relate to language rights and prisoners' rights in Northern Ireland, the Hunger Strikes in the 1980s. Maurice Hayes, civil servant and senator, with papers covering community and public governance in Northern Ireland from the 1970s, including policing, power-sharing, and development.
- Ruairí Ó'Brádaigh – papers relate to his involvement in the Republican Movement, including the Feakle Talks (1974) and cease-fire negotiations (1975).
- Paddy McMenamin, papers include a photograph album taken within Long Kesh prison huts and cages, and hand-made prisoner magazines.

Exhibit

Signed copy of the New Ireland Forum Report from the archive of Hugh Logue. The signed copy of the Forum report contains the signatures of forty-three individuals connected to the Forum, its submissions, workings, and final findings through 1983 and 1984. The Forum was an important development at its time (the early 1980s) and while not enacting the firm roadmap towards peace and stability in Northern Ireland that it hoped, it was an important moment in Anglo-Irish political relations ahead of later events, such as the 1985 Anglo-Irish Agreement, that followed.

Northern Ireland Conflict Archive

Belfast - www.librariesni.org.uk



Archive Information

The Northern Ireland Conflict Archive at Belfast Central Library consists of around 1000 items. The material comprises pamphlets, leaflets, correspondence, ephemera, posters, postcards, greetings cards, badges, stickers, audio visual material and photographs representing a cross section of Northern Ireland political opinion. Most of the material dates from the late 1960s to the mid 1980s, with a small amount of material having been collected since then. There is also a collection of documents belonging to Sam Smyth relating to Unionism and Loyalism. There are no special conditions for access and no appointments or references are needed.

Collections Information

Other relevant collections are held by Libraries NI. The Newspaper Library is also held in Belfast Central Library and along with issues of the Belfast newspapers, we hold provincial and Republic of Ireland papers, as well as small ephemeral newspapers. Omagh Library holds the Omagh Bomb Archive. Since 1998, library staff have collected and collated information relating to the tragic events of 15th August 1998 and its aftermath, with a view to creating an archive. Derry Central Library holds around 5,000 books and journals of the Peter Moloney Collection on the Troubles.

Exhibit

The document chosen is a Christmas card from 1973. It highlights the third year of internment and the effect on families. Imprisoned fathers are shown on the cover, while the inside features an illustration of a mother and children with an empty chair beside a Christmas tree. It was produced by the Association for Legal Justice. The card had been sent in Christmas 1973 and was donated to the library at a later date.



© Libraries NI

D8.18

The Linen Hall

Belfast - www.linenhall.com/



Archive Information

The Political Collection at the Linen Hall began in 1968 with one civil rights leaflet and today contains some 350,000 items. It is the definitive archive of 'The Troubles' and beyond, charting from the emergence of the civil rights movement, through the peace process to our post conflict society. It is a living collection, by and for the community, which is added to by acquisition and donation. Encompassing political, social and economic history, it elucidates the lived experience, is the people's history and our collective memory. As material was collected contemporaneously, the collection contains a significant number of items which exist in no other collections. The political collection is freely accessible to all via Level 4 of the Linen Hall, with digitised content available via our website.

Collections Information

The political collection holds over 20,000 books and pamphlets; 5000+ original political posters; 2000+ periodical titles and community newsletters; 100,000+ items of ephemera including handbills; flyers; and leaflets from early civil rights leaflets to the most recent election materials; thousands of letters and correspondence; insightful photographic collections; and newspapers and press cuttings spanning decades. The countless objects and artefacts are a highlight—badges, keyrings, mugs, t-shirts; prison art; smuggled 'comms'; prison escape plans; defaced coins; and conflict textiles. There is an original political cartoon collection, and hand annotated political speeches collection. And there are several hundred personal and organisation archives—such as archives of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association; Paddy Devlin; Peace People; Northern Ireland Women's Right Movement; Women Together; Belfast Trades Council; Northern Ireland Women's Coalition; Geraldine Finucane; All Children Together; Falls Community Council; Baroness May Blood; and QueerSpace. The collection encompasses Traveller history; women's history; working class history; Trade Union history; LGBTQIA+ history; peace and reconciliation studies, and contemporary collecting. We collect around climate

change and environmental campaigning; mental health; activism; and contemporary civil rights issues such as period poverty; housing; and violence against women and girls. And there is a growing collection of insightful oral histories.

Exhibit

The Northern Ireland Women's Coalition was a cross-community political party founded in 1996 that addressed gender imbalance and the lack of women's representation in politics. Monica McWilliams and Pearl Sagar were the first in the Coalition to successfully attain seats in the Northern Ireland Forum following the 1996 elections. Informed by the core principles of inclusion, equality, and human rights, the all-women party played a key role in the multi-party negotiations that culminated in the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement. Monica McWilliams, co-founder of the party, became a signatory to the Agreement, representing a small percentage of women peace treaty signatories across the world. Often met with a backlash of hostility from their male peers, the Coalition challenged sexism and gender discrimination by encouraging women from all backgrounds, and communities, to engage with and participate in politics, effecting change for fairer and more equal political participation. The NIWC sizeable archive at the Linen Hall contains election ephemera, newspaper clippings, press releases, correspondence, photographs, speech transcripts, meeting minutes, and manifestos. We have chosen this photograph to represent the archive as it shows the Coalition campaigning for a yes vote during the Agreement referendum just outside the Linen Hall building in 1998. It was a full circle moment when the NIWC archive was donated to the Linen Hall.



© Lesley Doyle

NIPC/NIWC

Writing Peace: George J. Mitchell Collection



Oxford - www.quillproject.net/resource_collections/125.

Archive Information

Writing Peace is an initiative of the Quill Project at Pembroke College and the Faculty of History at Oxford University to create a unique collection and visualisation of primary source material relating to the peace process, allowing users to understand the context within which key decisions and compromises were made, the origins of particular phrases, and the developing roles of individuals and political parties. It includes collections of papers from a range of actors as well as selections of state papers from both the British and Irish governments.

Collections Information

The Senator George J. Mitchell collection comprises a selection of the papers held at the George J. Mitchell Special Collection and Archives at Bowdoin College Library. All of the papers are taken from Subseries 2 of the Northern Ireland series (M202.7.2), which contains Senator Mitchell's papers from the period 1995–1998, relating to his work as chairman first of the International Body on Arms Decommissioning, and then of the 1996–1998 Multi-Party Talks which resulted in the Good Friday Agreement. Boxes 910, 911 and 912, from which this document is taken, include the bulk of Senator Mitchell's copies of official papers pertaining to the 1996–1998 negotiations and his copies of the official minutes. For further information about the collection, please visit Bowdoin College Library's website at the following link: <https://library.bowdoin.edu/arch/george-j-mitchell/>.

Exhibit

This document, drawn from the selection of Senator Mitchell's papers available to view on the Quill website, captures confidential notes on bilateral meetings held on 7 April 1998 during the negotiations leading to the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement. It is particularly valuable as it reveals the candid positions of a range of parties—initially the Alliance Party, UUP, PUP—with later pages covering the views of the NIWC, UDP and SDLP. While only the first page is visible here, the full document illustrates how these private bilaterals gave mediators critical insights into party concerns, red lines, and potential compromises. The document's provenance underscores its authenticity and centrality: Mitchell, as independent chair of the talks, was uniquely placed to document the behind-the-scenes dynamics of the negotiations. This record is especially significant because it highlights how bilateral engagements—not just the plenary sessions—were instrumental in shaping consensus. It demonstrates the complexity and delicacy of the negotiations, and the document's detail and tone provide a rare glimpse into the mechanics of conflict resolution at a pivotal moment in Northern Ireland's history, a few days before the signature of the agreement.



Folder 10: Final Agreement Documents, 30 March to 10 April (Volume 1) [3], Box 911, Subseries 2 (M202.7.2) Commission Documents (1995-1998), Series 7 (M202.7) Northern Ireland Records (1995-2008), George J. Mitchell Papers, George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections & Archives, Bowdoin College Library, Brunswick, Maine, digitized by the Quill Project at https://www.quillproject.net/resource_collections/125/resource_item/25886.

© The Quill Project has received one-time, non-exclusive use of the papers in this collection from Bowdoin College Library to make them available online as part of Writing Peace.

Parties' Concerns Expressed in Bilaterals on 7 April

Alliance

Serious discontent over Annexes A and B of the Strand Two paper (common policies and separate implementation). These had not been discussed and raised unionist anxieties unduly. Implementation bodies in themselves were acceptable, but there was a major presentational problem over how the list of functions would be used by the opponents of an agreement.

Strand Three: the main problem was the apparent exclusion of the Northern Ireland Government from meetings of the Conference on Northern Ireland non-devolved matters.

The sections on policing, prisoner and decommissioning were "disastrous" and one-sided. They read the policing proposals as recommending an International Commission and they were unhappy that prisoners would be released without decommissioning. They also strongly disliked what they saw as an over-emphasis on the Irish language.

They wanted the Irish to incorporate the ECHR.

Strand One: they had a series of concerns but indicated that these were negotiable. They particularly disliked the civic forum (and its Strand Two counterpart), the idea of a top-up in the electoral system, the maximum of 10 Assembly Secretaries, the requirement for sufficient consensus, and what they saw as confusion over how the top two Assembly posts would be filled (by the d'Hondt rule or by a vote of the Assembly).

UUP (Mr Trimble)

Fundamental difficulties with the draft text on Strand Two. The Strand Two text contained a lot of "garbage". The first step was to "tear up the three annexes".

Proposed changes to the Irish Constitution were wholly inadequate. They neither removed the claim nor recognised the existence of Northern Ireland.

PUP

The PUP priority was to secure the quickest possible release of the largest number of prisoners. They wanted a uniform system applied to all prisoners, with no differentiation on the basis of court papers or the nature of the original offence. The PUP outlined an ambitious list of measures to facilitate the reintegration of prisoners into society. There should be no discrimination against released prisoners on the basis of their previous records..

Strand Two: their main difficulty concerned the proposed setting up of Strand Two implementing bodies in advance of the Assembly coming into existence. They were prepared to accept implementing bodies in principle, but these had to be rooted through the Assembly. The first step to agreement was to get the Annexes removed. Some

National Archives of Ireland



An Chaitlann Náisiúnta
National Archives

Dublin - www.nationalarchives.ie/plan-a-visit/readers-ticket

Archive Information

The National Archives in Dublin was established under the National Archives Act 1986 merging the holdings of the Public Record Office of Ireland and the State Paper Office of Ireland. As the official archive of central government, we preserve, manage and provide access to records of State and also to private collections that complement our official holdings. Currently, the National Archives are preparing for the release of the 1926 Census in April 2026. The National Archives is also involved in the creation of the National Centre for Research and Remembrance. It will preserve and provide access to records relating to the State's role in the operation and oversight of a wide range of institutions in Ireland in the 20th century. The National Archives' Reading Room is open to the public with a valid reader's ticket. For more information visit our website at Readers Ticket | The National Archives of Ireland.

Collections Information

Since the National Archives (Amendment) Act 2018 was enacted to introduce a 20 year release period for state records relating to Northern Ireland and the peace process, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, along with the Department of the Taoiseach, Department of Justice, and the Office of the Attorney General have transferred thousands of files for release to the public, to the National Archives from the period 1990–2004. The records of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade make up over 7000 of these files, and establish a comprehensive collection relating to a key chapter in recent Irish history that contributes to a deeper understanding of the Irish Government's role in the Northern Ireland Peace Process. The collection represents the core work of the Department in its engagement with all sections of the community in Northern Ireland and in particular, its role during the period leading up to the signing of the Good Friday Agreement. The records of the Department's Anglo-Irish Division also include those of Anglo-Irish Secretariat Belfast, established under the Anglo-Irish Agreement (1985), the

British-Irish Intergovernmental Secretariat Belfast, established under the Good Friday Agreement (1998) for the British–Irish Council, and the North South Ministerial Council Joint Secretariat, Armagh, and encompass not only reports of high-level Ministerial meetings, but also representations made by members of the public to the Department, reports of community engagement, and the continued support for organisations across communities through the work of the International Fund for Ireland and the Reconciliation Fund.

Exhibit

Whilst the collection holds records that document the work of the Department of Foreign Affairs throughout the peace process along significant milestones and political developments, it is the everyday role of civil servants on the ground that can often be overlooked. For example, weekly briefs and reports by Anglo-Irish Division incorporate updates from the Belfast Secretariat, the 'travellers' in Anglo-Irish Division, and the Embassies in London and Washington. These briefs were sent to political and official principals in Dublin, and were central to keeping those involved informed of all developments, maintaining a unified approach, and determining the reach of Dublin in the lead-up to all-party negotiations. These files are an invaluable source of information providing insight that formed the basis for the Irish Government's decision-making process. While the 1994 ceasefire was the key focus of the period, Anglo-Irish Division continued its work on more routine issues including the matter of British security forces incursions and incidents, the pursuit of fair employment in Northern Ireland, and cross-border co-operation on education and health. The files from this period capture the tension of the ceasefire and the sensitivity of the arms decommissioning problem, but also the every-day work of the Department to engage, progress, and shape change. This record represents the regular contact made by both sides, reporting security incidents and representing the complaints and allegations made by the public.

NOTE TO THE IRISH SIDE

Hold

SECURITY RESPONSE FOLLOWING CEASEFIRE: ISSUES RAISED BY IRISH SIDE
AT MEETING ON 18 OCTOBER

At the meeting held with Mr Steele on 18 October the Irish side enquired if further advice could be given on 3 incidents which were specified in the Irish paper of 14 October. I can advise as follows:

Crossmaglen GAA Pitch

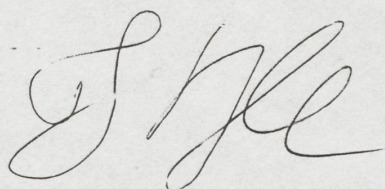
I am able to confirm that a helicopter was overflying the pitch during the first half of the match and that its tasking was an operational matter. I have been asked to convey apologies for any disruption which the overflying may have caused.

RIR Patrol in Lurgan

I am able to confirm that an RIR patrol was operating in Lurgan and was in the Edward Street area. The soldiers who were carrying out normal operational activities, behaved correctly at all times and there is nothing untoward to report about the patrol.

Patrol Activity in Londonderry

In relation to the reports of a 'heavy patrolling' presence in parts of Londonderry there was no intention to give such an impression. It was an accident of fate if patrols were seen in the same areas, and no significance is attributable to it.



C D KYLE

21 OCTOBER 1994

/29341

Title: Monitoring the Ceasefire: Note to the Irish Side
Ref: National Archives, DFA2021/49/85

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Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich Memorial Library & Archive



Armagh - www.ofiaich.ie

Archive Information

The Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich Memorial Library & Archive is a free, independent, public reference library and archive situated in Armagh, the ecclesiastical capital of Ireland. It houses a number of specialist collections of national and international importance.

Collections Information

The archive holds specialist collections on Irish cultural heritage, church, history, sports, diaspora and language. It also houses several unique collections relating to the Troubles in Northern Ireland from 1969.

Exhibit

Correspondence from Fr Alec Reid to Cardinal Ó Fiaich [undated, c.1989–1990] in which the former sets out a suggested agenda for a meeting to agree a joint strategy for Nationalist parties that would contribute to a common approach to solving the conflict and reach a lasting peace settlement.



Opposite: OFCA 07/4/053 Cardinal Ó Fiaich Library & Archive Armagh
Opposite: © Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich Memorial Library & Archive. Used with permission.

J.M.J.A.



Tel. Belfast 241044

OFCA/7/4/053

H A Reid
Clonard Monastery,
Clonard Gardens,
Belfast,
BT13 2RL.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the meeting would be to reach an agreement on the strategy and tactics of a common Nationalist policy for peace which would enable the leadership of the parties concerned to combine their political forces in a common campaign for a just and lasting settlement of the present conflict.

SUGGESTED AGENDA

- (1) Discuss and decide on whether or not it would be (a) possible and (b) opportune to organise a combined political effort to persuade the British authorities to declare:-
 - (i) that they are willing to set aside the 1920 Government of Ireland Act either now or at some date in the future.
 - (ii) that they intend to withdraw from Ireland at some date in the future.
 - (iii) that they do not intend to stay in Ireland forever.
 - (iv) that their continuing presence in Ireland is a matter for continuous review because, in the long term at least, it may not be in the best interests of the Irish people.
- (2) Discuss and decide on the feasibility of a combined political effort to persuade the British authorities to declare
 - (i) that they will set aside the 1920 Act when the Irish people themselves provide them with a viable alternative.
 - (ii) that, whatever the situation may have been in the past, they no longer have any self-interest in remaining in Ireland or in exercising authority here.
 - (iii) that they will support and facilitate the kind of constitutional Conference that would enable the Irish people to decide their own constitutional and political future through free, independent and

Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI)



Belfast

www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/public-record-office-northern-ireland-proni

Archive Information

The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) is the official archive for Northern Ireland and an accredited archive service. PRONI has a statutory role for the reception, preservation and provision of access to records established under the Public Records Act (Northern Ireland) 1923 as amended by the Freedom of Information Act 2000. PRONI has a unique archival role in the context of these islands, providing an integrated archival service that equates to covering the functions of a Public Record Office, the manuscript department of a National Library and county record offices for the six counties of Northern Ireland. From its earliest days, PRONI has attempted to seek out records covering all aspects of Northern Ireland's archival heritage and community memory.

Collections Information

PRONI holds over three million documents on a range of formats relating chiefly, but not exclusively, to Northern Ireland. PRONI's holdings include a wide range of conflict-related archives from both official and privately deposited sources. Records such as government files and court records sit alongside letters, photographs, oral history recordings and moving image footage providing multiple perspectives on the past. Partnerships, such as those with Ulster University's Conflict Archive on the Internet (CAIN) and the Prisons Memory Archive Advisory Group, help PRONI's conflict-related archives reach a wider audience.

Exhibit

The image opposite is a still from John Hetherington's oral history recording as part of the Prisons Memory Archive (PMA) project. John Hetherington talks about working as a prison officer from 1974 to 2004 and the impact this experience had on him. The PMA (PRONI catalogue reference number D4616) comprises filmed walk-and-talk recordings made in Armagh Gaol in 2006 and the Maze and Long Kesh Prison in 2007. The archive includes contributions from a range of constituencies including prison staff, prisoners, relatives, tutors, chaplains, lawyers, doctors, probation officers and maintenance workers. This approach was grounded in the understanding that narratives from the past are contested and that it is important to hear and see the story from many perspectives. Drawing on the oral-history tradition of 'life-storytelling', the project attempted to minimise the levels of mediation between participant and filmmaker and viewer. Participants were brought back to the empty sites of the Maze and Long Kesh Prison and Armagh Gaol where the sites helped trigger the participants' memories. A partnership between PRONI, Queen's University Belfast and the PMA Advisory Group funded by the NLHF preserved the recordings and encourage public access to them and engagement with the range of experiences encapsulated within them.



Still from John Hetherington's recording

© Image reproduced courtesy of PRONI and the Prisons Memory Archive



Special Collections & Archives, Queen's University Belfast



Belfast - www.qub.ac.uk/specialcollections

Archive Information

Special Collections provides access to the Library's rare and early printed books, maps, photographs and manuscript collections, as well as more modern material relating to Ireland and Ulster in particular. The books, pamphlets, manuscripts, correspondence, photographs, and maps held in Special Collections are considered to be of lasting research value. The institutional archive of Queen's University Belfast is also accessible via Special Collections & Archives. It includes records pertaining to the history and development of Queen's from its foundation as a Queen's College in 1845 through to its establishment as an independent university in 1908 to the present day. Special Collections & Archives is open to anyone who wishes to make use of our resources. If you are interested in visiting, please contact us to arrange consultation.

Collections Information

Queen's holds significant modern political collections, which have grown substantially in recent years. These collections include the personal papers of Lord Trimble, Lord Alderdice, and Professor McWilliams. The Trimble Collection (MS 86) includes personal diaries, political correspondence, and other correspondence related to the conflict, peace process, and decommissioning. The Alderdice Collection (MS 88) is a rich and varied collection which includes extensive detail on Lord Alderdice's role in the peace process as well as his contribution to liberal politics and conflict resolution internationally. Queen's also holds the McWilliams Collection (MS 87), which provides insights from the pre-talks phase through to the Good Friday Agreement and its implementation. The Scarman Tribunal Collection (MS 33) includes exhibits, evidence, and submissions gathered as part of the Report of Tribunal of Inquiry, 'Violence and

Civil Disturbances in Northern Ireland in 1969'. The Trial and Appeals Collection (MS 73) addresses the cases which led to the establishment of the Criminal Cases Review Commission, including prosecution witness statements and documentary exhibits from the trials of the Birmingham Six, Guildford Four, and Maguire Seven. Queen's holds seven further relevant collections, some of which are in the early stages of processing or under embargo, including a collection of papers relating to the Bloody Sunday Inquiry (MS 96).

Exhibit

The Stained Letter from the Trimble Collection (MS 86) has been selected for inclusion in the brochure due to its significance. The letter, from the afternoon of 10th April 1998, provided an assurance from Tony Blair that he would support change if it appeared as though the exclusion provisions set out in Strand 1, Paragraph 25 of the Good Friday Agreement were ineffective. As the Unionist talks team were unwilling to proceed with this aspect of the Agreement as written, the assurance given in this letter marked the turning point and formed the basis for the decision to support the Agreement. When addressing the media following signature, David Trimble quoted from the letter which was stained as a result of the snowfall that day.



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

10 April 1998

Dear David,

I understand your problem with paragraph 25 of Strand 1 is that it requires decisions on those who should be excluded or removed from office in the Northern Ireland Executive to be taken on a cross-community basis.

This letter is to let you know that if, during the course of the first six months of the shadow Assembly or the Assembly itself, these provisions have been shown to be ineffective, we will support changes to these provisions to enable them to be made properly effective in preventing such people from holding office.

Furthermore, I confirm that in our view the effect of the decommissioning section of the agreement, with decommissioning schemes coming into effect in June, is that the process of decommissioning should begin straight away.

Yours sincerely
Tony Blair

The Right Honourable David Trimble MP

Redemptorist Dublin Province Archive

Dundalk - www.redemptorists.ie/about/library

Archive Information

The Redemptorist Dublin Province Archive contains the records of the Redemptorists in Ireland from 1851 onwards. The aim of the Province Archive is to document the experiences and activities of the Redemptorists in Ireland by collecting, preserving, and making accessible documents created by, or relating to, the Redemptorists, collectively and individually. The purpose is to safeguard the historical documents and acquire material that will support future research and contribute to the preservation of the cultural heritage and history of the Redemptorists in Ireland. The Province Archive is open by appointment only and to contact the Province Archive, please email the Archivist.

Collections Information

The Province Archive contains the archival holdings of each community in Ireland and the archival records of the province. This includes papers relating to Province administration, Province communities, missions and retreats, and records of the Vice-Provinces. The records in the Province Archive reflect the development and activities of the Congregation, and of the confreres, and may be historical, personal, or spiritual in content. These records preserve the collective memory of the Redemptorists in Ireland. The Province Archive contains the personal papers of individual Redemptorists which includes the papers of Fr Alexander (Alec) Reid CSsR and Fr Gerry Reynolds CSsR. Both Fr Reid and Fr Reynolds are recognised for their contribution to the peace process in Northern Ireland.

Exhibit

This document is considered to be the first draft of the Joint Declaration made by Albert Reynolds and John Major at Downing Street in December 1993. By reconciling the two principles at the heart of the conflict, self-determination and consent, the Declaration marked a turning point in the peace process and paved the way for more detailed negotiations. The idea of a joint declaration first emerged in Fr Alec Reid's writings in the 1980s and his archive contains a number of papers relating to the drafting process. This paper was produced as the first attempts were made to engage the British government in the process. John Hume borrowed the title of one of Reid's earlier papers, but also made the document his own, as is seen here in his espousal of the European Union as a core building block for a peaceful future and transformed relationship between Britain and Ireland. Although the European element would be diluted in future drafts out of concern for Euroscepticism within the Conservative Party, the framing of the document and key phrases survived two years of negotiation between the governments, and are clearly recognisable in the final version.



Opposite: AR/2/3/471 Papers of Fr Alexander (Alec) Reid CSsR (Redemptorist Dublin Province Archive)

Opposite: © Redemptorist Dublin Province Archive. Used with permission.

J. Heine - 1st Draft - 1 - 270

October 1991.

A Strategy for Peace and Justice in Ireland

Aim: A joint declaration by both British and Irish Prime Ministers.

1. Leaving the past aside and regretting the pain and suffering caused by past failures to settle the relationships of the people of both islands satisfactorily.
2. Recognising that the implementation of the Single Market and the coming into being of European Union with the effective removal of all borders fundamentally changes the nature of British/Irish relationships. Further recognising that future developments which leave both parts of Ireland as the only part of the new Europe with no land links with the other regions, will intensify the common ground between both parts of Ireland and intensify the need for maximum co-operation to achieve maximum benefit from European Union.
3. Regret, however, that there remains a serious legacy of past relationships - a deeply divided people on the island of Ireland. This is a major concern of both

The National Archives



Surrey - www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

Archive Information

We are a non-ministerial department, and the official archive and publisher for the UK Government, and for England and Wales. We are the guardians of over 1000 years of iconic national documents. We are expert advisers in information and records management and are a cultural, academic and heritage institution. We fulfil a leadership role for the archive sector and work to secure the future of physical and digital records.

Collections Information

We hold records from UK Government departments relating to the creation and governance of Northern Ireland as well as military records relating to the period of The Troubles and the peace process. Records series include those of the Northern Ireland Office, the Prime Minister's office, the Cabinet Office, as well as Ministry of Defence records.

Exhibit

A list of head of state and other politicians who sent letters of congratulations to Tony Blair, UK Prime Minister, on the signing of the Agreement, April 1998, Catalogue ref: PREM 49/412 I chose this document because at first sight it seems like just a list of names but on closer inspection it shows how the international community recognised the significance of what was achieved by the Peace Process. While it gives no details of what is included in the messages, the widespread group of countries, international organisations and individuals that are represented allows us to infer that the conflict in Northern Ireland had been a matter of global concern and that the Peace Process is recognised as a huge achievement. It is a perfect example of a document that tells us so much more than just the mere text on the page says. <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/the-belfast-good-friday-agreement-1998/33-letters-of-congratulation-received-for-the-agreement-1998/>.



Opposite: TNA Catalogue ref: PREM 49/412

Opposite: © This document is provided under the Open Government Licence
<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>

NORTHERN IRELAND: LETTERS OF CONGRATULATION FROM HEADS OF STATE AND VIPs (As at 27 April)

Khalifa Bin Sulman AL KHALIFA
Prime Minister of Bahrain

Kofi ANNAN
Secretary-General of the United Nations

Emeka ANYAOKU
Commonwealth Secretary-General

Paddy ASHDOWN MP

Norman BAKER MP

Ehud BARAK
Chairman, The Israeli Labor Party

Ann BARRETT

David BLUNKETT MP

Kjell Magne BONDEVIK
Prime Minister of Norway

Melyvn BRAGG

Jerzy BUZEK
Prime Minister of Poland

Rafael CALDERA
President of Venezuela

Jim CALLAGHAN

Roger CASALE MP

Jacques CHIRAC
President of France

Vannino CHITI

Jean CHRETIEN
Prime Minister of Canada

Charles CLARKE MP

Sir Patrick CORMACK MP

Flavio COTTI
Swiss Federal Council

Maneck DALAL *PS has replied to his own letter*

Sibusiso DLAMINI
Prime Minister of Swaziland

Achbishop of DUBLIN (Empey)

Laurent FABIUS
French National Assembly

Pamela GORDON
Premier of Bermuda

Ryutaro HASHIMOTO
Prime Minister of Japan

Sheikh HASINA Wazed
Prime Minister of Bangladesh

King HASSAN
Morocco

Edward HEATH
(Did not write to PM but issued statement to Press Association)

Clive HOLLICK

John HOWARD
Prime Minister of Australia

King HUSSEIN
Jordan

Lord JAKOBOVITS

Greville JANNER *Prime Minister of Canada*

Lionel JOSPIN
Prime Minister of France

Frank JUDD

Neil KINNOCK [NB: PM has replied in his own hand]

Wim KOK
Prime Minister of The Netherlands

Chandrika Bandarnaike KUMARATUNGA
President of Sri Lanka

Mr LEE Kuan Yew
Senior Minister of Singapore

Federico MAYOR
UNESCO

Pierre MAUROY

Paddy MAYHEW

Carlos MENEM
President of Argentina

Yehudi MENUHIN

Lennart MERI
President of the Republic of Estonia

Mohamed Hosni MUBARAK
President of Egypt

Ntsu MOKHEHLE
Prime Minister of Lesotho

Swraj PAUL

Jordi PUJOL
President of the Autonomous Government of Catalonia

Giles RADICE MP

Poul RASMUSSEN
Prime Minister of Denmark

George ROBERTSON MP

Dr Alfred SANT *has written that John Birt has contacted him regarding the PM's meeting with the Irish Taoiseach*

Jenny SHIPLEY
Prime Minister of New Zealand

Jeremy THORPE

Cecil WALKER MP

James T WALSH
Friends of Ireland

UCD Archives

Belfield - www.ucd.ie/archives/



UCD Archives
Cartlann UCD

Archive Information

UCD Archives specialises in the acquisition of private paper collections associated with the history and development of the modern Irish state. It now preserves the papers of a great many Irish public figures including diplomats, senior civil servants, members of government and the judiciary, presidents and EU commissioners. It also acquires the records of significant organisations such as political parties, trades unions, professional and cultural associations and sporting bodies. These collections constitute an essential resource for research into Irish history, politics and culture from the twentieth century onwards. UCD Archives pursues an active acquisitions policy in seeking to preserve the papers and archives of contemporary public figures and bodies. Please contact archives@ucd.ie for further information. Our collections are open to all users. Please contact archives@ucd.ie to arrange an appointment.

Collections Information

Collections held in UCD Archives concerning the Northern Ireland peace process include papers from politicians, activist and campaigning organisations, diplomats and senior civil servants. Access to catalogued collections is available by appointment in our reading room and online via the Writing Peace Strand of the Quill Project.

Exhibit

Joint Declaration, early draft, 29 March 1993, 4pp. Photocopied early draft of the Downing Street Declaration with handwritten annotations by Dermot Nally (1927–2009). Following his retirement, Nally was retained on a consultancy basis by Taoiseach, Albert Reynolds (1932–2014) to advise on the negotiations leading to the Downing Street Declaration (December 1993). Nally was one of four principal drafters of the document. As well as notes in the margins, Nally underlines and uses exclamation marks to highlight certain words or phrases he considers to be of particular importance. He places particular emphasis on paragraph 4 which begins “The Prime Minister reiterates, on behalf of the British Government, that they have no selfish, strategic, political or economic interest in Northern Ireland, and that their sole interest is to see peace, stability and reconciliation established by agreement among the people who inhabit the island”.



Opposite: UCDA P254/4 Papers of Dermot Nally.

Opposite: © Reproduced by kind permission of UCD Archives

29/3/93 P254/4

Downing St. Declaration - early draft (Hume/Adams?)

1. The Taoiseach and the British Prime Minister acknowledge that the most urgent and important issue facing the people of Ireland, North and South, and the British and Irish Governments together, is to remove the causes of conflict, to overcome the legacy of history and to heal the divisions which have resulted, recognising that past failures to settle relationships between the people of both islands satisfactorily has led to continuing tragedy and suffering.
2. They consider that the development of European Union fundamentally changes the nature and the context of British-Irish relationships and will progressively remove the basis of the conflict still taking place in Northern Ireland. The challenges and opportunities of European Union will, of themselves, require new approaches to serve interests common to both parts of Ireland.
3. The Taoiseach and the British Prime Minister are convinced of the inestimable value to both their peoples of healing divisions in Ireland and of ending a conflict which has been so manifestly to the detriment of all. Both recognise that the ending of divisions can come about only through the agreement and cooperation of the people, North and South, representing both traditions in Ireland. They therefore make a solemn commitment to promote cooperation at all levels. It is their aim to foster agreement and reconciliation, leading to a new political framework founded on consent and encompassing the whole island.
4. The British Prime Minister reiterates, on behalf of the British Government, that they have no selfish, strategic, political or economic interest in Northern Ireland, and that their sole interest is to see peace, stability and reconciliation established by agreement among the people who inhabit the island. The British Government accept the principle that the Irish people have the right to self-determination and,

(*)
Common!

national

that the exercise of this collective right democratically could take the form of agreed independent structures for the island as a whole. They affirm their readiness, in cooperation with the Irish Government, to establish by legislation a procedure to reach agreement on how the right of self-determination could be exercised democratically and collectively, allowing sufficient time for the building of consent and the beginning of a process of national reconciliation. The progress of this procedure will be reviewed within a specified time to be agreed and, as necessary, regularly thereafter. The British Government affirm their readiness to introduce the measures to give legislative effect to the exercise of the right of self-determination on that basis. The British Government will use all their influence and energy to move forward the process of national reconciliation and to win the consent of a majority in Northern Ireland for an agreement between all the people of Ireland on their political future, which recognises both the unity of Ireland and the special links and the unique relationship which exist between Ireland and Britain. They acknowledge that it is the wish of the people of Britain to see the people of Ireland live together in unity and harmony with respect for their diverse traditions, recognising that the whole island of Ireland has a right to independence based on agreement. For their part the Irish Government are committed to making substantial progress towards a new and agreed Ireland within a generation.

Common
legislating
for all Ireland!

(*)
2

Very
green!

(*)
3

True
simult!

5. The Taoiseach, on behalf of the Irish Government, considers that the lessons of Irish history, and especially of Northern Ireland, show that stability and well-being will not be found under any political system which is refused allegiance or rejected on grounds of identity by a significant minority of those governed by it. He accepts, on behalf of the Irish Government, that the democratic right of self-determination by the people of Ireland as a whole must be achieved and exercised with the agreement and consent of the people of Northern Ireland and must, consistent with justice and equity, respect the democratic dignity and the

whole
island!

simultaneously!

civil rights of both communities.

6. The Irish Government accordingly commit themselves to working in the spirit and on the basis of the Report of the New Ireland Forum, to create institutions and structures which, while respecting the diversity of the people of Ireland, would enable them to work together in all areas of common interest. This will help to build the trust necessary to end past divisions, leading to an agreed and peaceful future. Such structures would, of course, include institutional recognition of the special links that exist between the peoples of Britain and Ireland as part of the totality of relationships, while taking account of newly forged links with the rest of Europe.
7. In the light of their joint commitment to promote the foregoing objectives, the Taoiseach has indicated to the British Prime Minister his intention of establishing a permanent Irish Convention to consult and advise on the steps required to remove the barriers of distrust which at present divide the people of Ireland and which stand in the way of the exercise in common by them of self-determination on a basis of equality. It will be open to the Convention to make recommendations on ways in which agreement, as defined in the Forum Report, and respect for the rights and identities of both traditions in Ireland, can be promoted and established. The Convention will be governed by the authority of Bunreacht na hEireann, and the institutions established under it. It will be a fundamental guiding principle of the Convention that all differences between the Irish people relating to the exercise in common of the right to self-determination will be resolved exclusively by peaceful, political means.

(*)
4

(*)
5

← unity
- self-determination / confederation!

Vidance?

8. The Convention will be open to all democratically mandated political parties in Ireland which abide exclusively by the democratic process and wish to share in dialogue about Ireland's political future and the welfare of all its people.

See
Downing
Street
Declaration
philosophy.

Writing Peace

Oxford - www.quillproject.net



Archive Information

Writing Peace is an initiative led by the Quill Project in Pembroke College, University of Oxford to bring together private archives, official papers, and oral histories of those involved in the peace process. These resources are integrated in an innovative, interactive, open-access digital platform that provides unprecedented insight into the complexity and detail of the decade-long talks that led to the Good Friday Agreement. Our unique visualisation of the primary sources allows users to better understand the context within which key decisions and compromises were made, the origins of particular phrases, and the developing roles of individuals and political parties, celebrating the full constellation of peace makers involved.

Collections Information

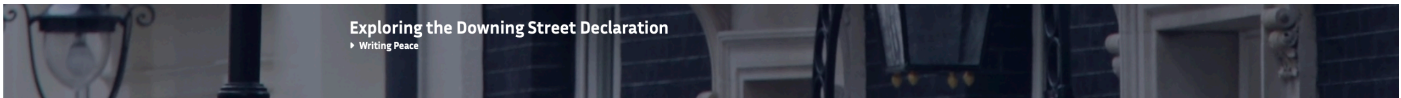
Quill's detail-oriented approach exposes the complexity of relationships and compromises at the heart of a negotiation by honing into meeting-by-meeting, day-by-day decisions and amendments to documents, but also allowing the user to 'zoom out' and visualize the whole process, highlighting the fact that progress can be far from linear. By modelling not just the successful outcome in 1998, but a decade of Talks, we want to help users explore points of difficulty and intransigence and better appreciate how trust was built and movement achieved. As the model develops, we hope this approach will also facilitate comparative work on different phases of the Talks—allowing users to explore, for example, the role of different chairs or the inclusion of a wider range of parties. We hope our model will effectively test John Alderdice's assertion that resolution was achieved through

'building a process rather than conjuring up a solution', meaning that process itself, including wrangling over who should meet who, when, and where, was part of the means of building trust and enabling people to work together. A better understanding of this aspect of the Northern Ireland Peace Process could also have useful application to other efforts at conflict resolution.

Exhibit

Writing Peace's resource collections and model of the negotiation of the Downing Street Declaration of 1993 illustrate the potential of the platform. The project team has worked through and digitised thousands of documents relating to the drafting of the Declaration in order to create a detailed timeline of the evolution of the text. Many of the documents consulted are now freely available to other users in digital resource collections, including extensive bodies of material from both state archives, as well documents from the Linen Hall Library, Dermot Nally's papers in University College Dublin, and two church archives. As well as being able to search these digital collections, users can click on any phrase in the final text of the Declaration and explore every moment that wording was discussed. In some cases they will also be able to see if it featured in earlier treaties or position papers.

The team hopes to also be able to complete this process for the Good Friday Agreement and has already made available extracts from David Trimble and Senator Mitchell's papers in partnership with Queen's University, Belfast and Bowdoin College.



Exploring the Downing Street Declaration

Writing Peace

Joint Declaration Downing Street Declaration

15 December 1993

The Taoiseach, Mr. Albert Reynolds, TD, and the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. John Major, MP, acknowledge that the most urgent and important issue facing the people of Ireland, North and South, and the British and Irish Governments together, is to remove the causes of conflict, to overcome the legacy of history and to heal the divisions which have resulted, recognising that the absence of a lasting and satisfactory settlement of relationships between the peoples of both islands has contributed to continuing tragedy and suffering. They believe that the development of an agreed framework for peace, which has been discussed between them since early last year, and which is based on a number of key principles articulated by the two Governments over the past 20 years, together with the adaptation of other widely accepted principles, provides the starting point of a peace process designed to culminate in a political settlement.

The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister are convinced of the inestimable value to both their peoples, and particularly for the next generation, of healing divisions in Ireland and of ending a conflict which has been so manifestly to the detriment of all. Both recognise that the ending of divisions can come about only through the agreement and co-operation of the people, North and South, representing both traditions in Ireland. They therefore make a solemn commitment to promote co-operation at all levels on the basis of the fundamental principles, undertakings, obligations under international agreements, to which they have jointly committed themselves, and the guarantees which each Government has given and now reaffirms, including Northern Ireland's statutory constitutional guarantee. It is their aim to foster agreement and reconciliation, leading to a new political framework founded on consent and encompassing arrangements within Northern Ireland, for the whole island, and between these islands.

They also consider that the development of Europe will, of itself, require new approaches to serve interests common to both parts of the island of Ireland, and to Ireland and the United Kingdom as partners in the European Union.

The Prime Minister, on behalf of the British Government, reaffirms that they will uphold the democratic wish of a greater number of the people of Northern Ireland on the issue of whether they prefer to support the Union or a sovereign united Ireland. On this basis, he reiterates, on behalf of the British Government, that they have **no selfish strategic or economic interest in Northern Ireland**. Their primary interest is to see peace, stability and reconciliation of relationships. The role of the British Government will be to encourage, facilitate and enable the achievement of such agreement over a period through a process of dialogue and co-operation based on full respect for the rights and identities of both traditions in Ireland. They accept that such agreement may, as of right, take the form of agreed structures for the island as a whole, including a united Ireland achieved by peaceful means on the following basis. The British Government agree that it is for the people of the island of Ireland alone, by agreement between the two parts respectively, to exercise their right of self-determination on the basis of consent, freely and concurrently given, North and South, to bring about a united Ireland, if that is their wish. They reaffirm as a binding obligation that they will, for their part, introduce the necessary legislation to give effect to this, or equally to any measure of agreement on future relationships in Ireland which the people living in Ireland may themselves freely so determine without external impediment. They believe that the people of Britain would wish, in friendship to all sides, to enable the people of Ireland to reach agreement on how they may live together in harmony and in partnership, with respect for their diverse traditions, and with full recognition of the special links and the unique relationship which exist between the peoples of Britain and Ireland.

The Taoiseach, on behalf of the Irish Government, considers that the lessons of Irish history, and especially of Northern Ireland, show that stability and well-being will only be achieved under new political arrangements which in national circumstances are founded on a new code of identity for a peaceful and united Ireland.

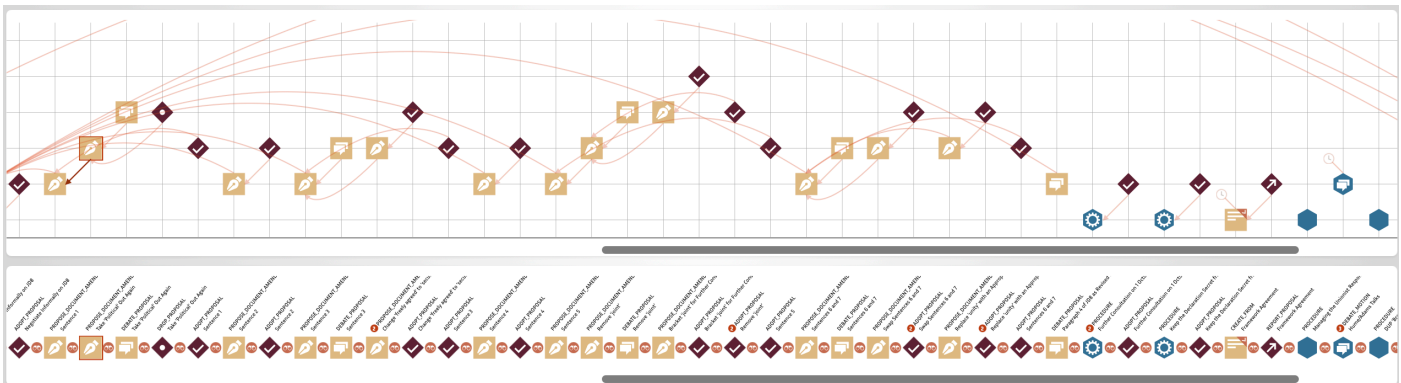
Session Events Matching Phrase 182

SWITCH VIEW

Date	Time	Committee / External Event	Description
Wednesday 7 November 1990 2 sessions 0 external events			
12:00:00		British Government	Peter Brooke's Whitbread Speech
12:00:00		British Government	Peter Brooke's Whitbread Speech
Thursday 8 November 1990 1 sessions 0 external events			
12:00:00		Sinn Féin	Peter Brooke's Whitbread Speech
Friday 9 November 1990 3 sessions 0 external events			
12:00:00		British-Maze Chaplains	Peter Brooke's Whitbread Speech
12:00:00		British Government	Peter Brooke's Whitbread Speech
12:00:00		British Government	Peter Brooke's Whitbread Speech
Monday 17 June 1991 1 sessions 0 external events			
12:56:00		All-Party Negotiations	The SDLP Analysis of the Nature of the Problem
Tuesday 18 June 1991 1 sessions 0 external events			
10:00:00		All-Party Negotiations	The SDLP Analysis of the Nature of the Problem
Wednesday 14 July 1993 14 sessions 0 external events			
12:00:00		Butler-Nally Meetings	British Government: Ten Principles
12:00:00		Butler-Nally Meetings	British Government: Ten Principles

Showing 1 to 10 of 182 entries

Previous 1 2 3 4 5 ... 19 Next



Take 'Political' Out Again

EXPAND TEXT BREAKDOWN VIEW

EXPAND DETAILS VIEW

AGREED TEXT INTERMEDIATE TEXT PROPOSED TEXT HIGHLIGHT CHANGES

Quick Links to Changes

1 2

[Paragraph 4 of JDB as Revised by Thomas and Ó hUiginn]

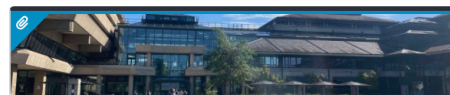
4. The Prime Minister reiterates on behalf of the British Government that they have no selfish strategic **political** or economic interest in Northern Ireland.

SUMMARY DETAILS DOCUMENT TREE (PREVIOUS EVENTS) RELATED EVENTS (FUTURE) DOCUMENT TREE RADIAL BRANCH DEVELOPMENT

Description

He wondered about adding the word "political" to "no selfish strategic and economic interest etc". It would be difficult for the British Government to say they had no political interest in one-and-a-half million people whom they actually governed.

Dermot Nally Collection, P254.



Writing Peace: The National Archives of the UK (TNA)

A selection of material relating to the Northern Irish Peace Process scanned at The National Archives of the UK. The files are mainly taken from the CJ 4 series (Northern Ireland Office records) and the PREM series (Office of the Prime Minister...

VIEW COLLECTION



Writing Peace: Dermot Nally Collection

This collection is one box (P254) from a larger selection of Dermot Nally's papers held in the University College Dublin Archives. The documents in the box relate to the development of the Downing Street Joint Declaration, made by the British and...

VIEW COLLECTION



Writing Peace: Linen Hall Library

This collection contains the correspondence and exchange of papers that took place between the SDLP and Sinn Féin in 1988. The original documents are held in the Linen Hall Library in Belfast. The same papers are also available as transcriptions...

VIEW COLLECTION

Ian McBride, Ruth Murray, Annabel Harris, and Nicholas P. S. Cole, Northern Ireland Downing Street Joint Declaration (1993), Quill Project at Pembroke College (Oxford, 2025)

Archiving Conflict and Reconciliation Fund Steering Group

Quill Project:

Ian McBride

Ruth Murray

Annabel Harris

National Archives of Ireland

Mary Mackey

University College Dublin

Kate Manning

National Archives of the UK

Andrew Payne

University of Galway

Barry Houlihan

Queen's University Belfast

Deirdre Wildy

Conor Kerr

In a personal capacity

Frank Sheridan, former Irish Ambassador and civil servant

Research Assistant

Antoine Yenk

We are indebted to the Government Ireland of Reconciliation Fund for making this project possible and would like to express particular thanks to Peadar Ó Lamhna and Yvonne Ellison.

The image shows the exterior of The National Archives building. The building has a modern design with a large glass facade. A prominent entrance is visible, featuring a concrete overhang with the words "The National Archives" in a serif font. The entrance is flanked by two large concrete pillars. Above the entrance, there is a glass-enclosed walkway or balcony. The building is situated on a paved plaza. The sky is overcast.



Contact Us

For further information about the project,
please visit www.quillproject.net or contact our office:

Ruth Murray

The Quill Project

Pembroke College

Oxford

OX1 1DW

Telephone: +44 (0)1865 610908

Email: ruth.murray@pmb.ox.ac.uk

In partnership with:



An Chartlann Náisiúnta
National Archives



An Leabharlann
Library

