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STATEMENT BY THE TAOISEACH, MR. LIAM COSGRAVE,

IN DÁIL ON 22ND MAY, 1974.

Sunningdale Agreement.

The Government have been informed of the agreement reached today among the parties in the Northern Ireland Executive on how the Sunningdale agreement should be implemented. They note that the Executive stands unitedly by the principles embodied in the Sunningdale Communique and that the agreement reached by it today involves the immediate establishment of the Council of Ministers of the Council of Ireland. Today's agreement also assures the maintenance of the power-sharing Executive in Northern Ireland which came into existence as a result of the settlement reached at Sunningdale.

This power-sharing Executive is an indispensable element in progress towards peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and indeed in Ireland as a whole. The maintenance and development of the Executive are especially vital to the interests of the minority in Northern Ireland, who through it have for the first time in the history of Northern Ireland secured full and fair representation in government.

The Government would of course have preferred if it had been possible to reach agreement within the Executive to join in implementing all aspects of the Council of Ireland immediately. They understand, however, the reasons which make this impossible. They believe that it is necessary to face the reality of the present extremely serious situation and accept the great need for a firm basis for peaceful progress. Accordingly the Government welcome the opportunity to co-operate in the Council of Ministers of the Council of Ireland on the basis proposed by the Executive.

Washed down.

No vid. best friend

disappointed Lynd + us.

opponents less uneasy. Injuring. - see
now we see - get ahead now -

Dangers not to proceed. Utility and
value on both side - help all.

Accept after next Assembly election. In
retrieval, quite necessary.

No concession early election - control election
create instability. But we close to show
forces. not for people

Important - poor thing has ruined -
Simple big important. Don't