

O C E A N

The National Archives presents

The Treaty 1921

— Records from the Archives —



An Chartlann Náisiúnta
National Archives



A word from the Minister

The 1921 Anglo-Irish Treaty is arguably the most important document in Irish history

The National Archives' 2021 Commemoration Programme marks the centenary of the significant events of 1921, culminating in the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty on 6 December. Part of the Decade of Centenaries 2012-2023 Programme, the Archives' programme not only commemorates momentous historical events and political figures but also recalls the everyday experience of ordinary people living in extraordinary times.

The National Archives preserves the memory of the state in the form of its written records. It acquires and protects Ireland's public records, thereby ensuring their availability as a resource for all. These records relate to the social, cultural, economic and political history of Ireland from the Middle Ages through to the establishment of the Irish Free State in 1922 and into the modern era. Amongst its collections is perhaps the most important document in Irish history: the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921.

The 'Treaty negotiations' began in London on 11 October 1921 and concluded in the early morning of 6 December 1921 with the signature, by British and Irish negotiators, of 'Articles of Agreement' – better known as the Anglo-Irish Treaty (or the Treaty). The Treaty provided for the establishment of the Irish Free State on 6 December 1922, governing twenty-six of Ireland's thirty-two counties.

**Detail from the presidential order
appointing the plenipotentiaries.**

National Archives. PRIV1093/4/52

A word from the Minister

The centenary of the Treaty's signing is being marked by a major exhibition that explores the negotiations and the experience in London of the Irish delegation. The exhibition is presented by the National Archives of Ireland, in partnership with the Royal Irish Academy, Office of Public Works and the National Library of Ireland, with content partners UCD Archives and the Military Archives, Dublin.

Using the Treaty as the centrepiece, the exhibition places significant documents from the collections of the National Archives on public display for the first time.

Using contemporary reportage, images and footage, *The Treaty, 1921: Records from the Archives* also locates the Treaty negotiations in the political context of the Irish revolution and a world turned upside down by the First World War. Beginning with the exploratory talks between Éamon de Valera, president of Dáil Éireann, and British prime minister David Lloyd George during the summer of 1921, it details the work of the Irish 'plenipotentiaries' and their secretariat by presenting the documentary record that they left behind.

The exhibition also chronicles the day-to-day life in London of the men and women who made up the Irish delegation, from parties, dinners and gala performances to the tense final days and hours leading to the signing of the Treaty just after 2am on 6 December 1921. Finally, it documents the delegation's return to Dublin and the Dáil Éireann Cabinet meeting that pointed to the split in the independence movement that emerged over the terms of the Treaty and that would lead to civil war.

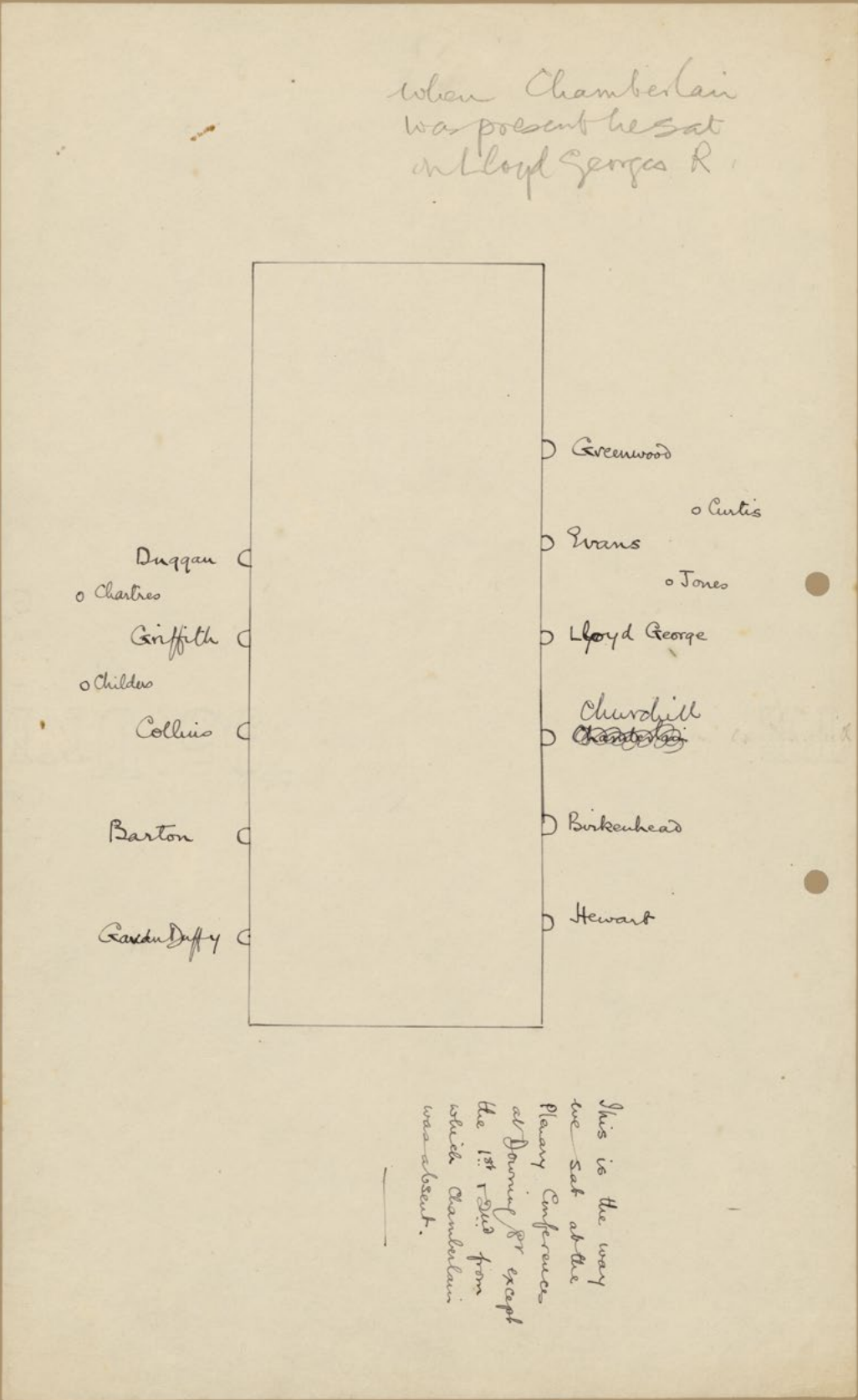
My responsibility, as Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, is to ensure that this complex period in our history is remembered with an appropriate, meaningful, proportionate and sensitive programme, which recognises the legitimacy of all traditions, and values mutual respect and historical authenticity. The National Archives' contribution to this programme is vital and I would like to thank them for developing this important exhibition.



Minister Catherine Martin TD
Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts,
Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

Hand-drawn plan, by Robert Barton, of the seating arrangements for the plenary conferences at 10 Downing St.

National Archives. PRIV 1093/4/32





A stylised depiction of the Treaty talks in the cabinet room of 10 Downing Street featured in the *Illustrated London News*, 5 November 1921.

Historical background:

The Treaty negotiations: London, 11 October – 6 December 1921

To understand the Treaty and its significance, we need to glance back to the years prior to the outbreak of the First World War, when the island of Ireland as a whole formed part of the United Kingdom (UK). Irish political life was dominated at this time by nationalists demanding a limited form of self-government within the UK (known as Home Rule) and unionists who insisted on maintaining the political 'union' with Britain.

Alongside these, other political forces were gathering strength: separatist republicans seeking full independence, a suffrage movement demanding women's full political and social rights, and a labour movement seeking greater rights for Ireland's rural and urban working classes.

The prospect of Home Rule being implemented after 1912 nearly provoked a civil war between its supporters and Irish unionists (largely concentrated in the north-east of Ireland), who feared domination by the nationalist majority. The outbreak of war in Europe temporarily defused this conflict in Ireland, as Home Rule was postponed until after the end of the war. In April 1916 separatist republicans seized the opportunity to stage a rebellion, known as the Easter Rising, largely confined to Dublin, demanding Irish independence as a republic. In the years after the Easter Rising republicanism was revived as a meaningful political force and was represented by the political party Sinn Féin ('Ourselves'), originally founded in 1905 but reorganised after 1916 on a separatist platform.

One of Robert Barton's copies of the presidential order appointing plenipotentiaries to negotiate and conclude a settlement with the British government. These were issued in both English and Irish.

National Archives. PRIV 1093/4/52

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME, GREETING:

In virtue of the authority vested in me by
DAIL EIREANN, I hereby appoint
Arthur Griffith, T.D., Minister for Foreign Affairs, Chairman.
Michael Collins, T.D., Minister of Finance,
Robert C. Barton, T.D., Minister for Economic Affairs,
Edmund J. Duggan, T.D.,
George Gavan Duffy, T.D.

as Envoys Plenipotentiary from the Elected Government of the
REPUBLIC OF IRELAND to negotiate and conclude on behalf of
Ireland with the representatives of his Britannic Majesty,
GEORGE V., a Treaty or Treaties of Settlement, Association
and Accommodation between Ireland and the community of nations
known as the British Commonwealth.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I hereunto subscribe my name
as President.

Done in the City of Dublin
this 7th day of October in
the year of our Lord 1921
in five identical originals.

3-23.

Ramon Dz Valera

Historical background

The first post-war general election was held across the UK in December 1918 with more people eligible to vote than ever before, including, for the first time, women over the age of thirty. Sinn Féin won 73 of Ireland's 105 UK parliamentary seats. The party boycotted Westminster and on 21 January 1919 its new representatives who were still at liberty assembled at Dublin's Mansion House as Dáil Éireann and declared Ireland independent.

On the same day two police officers were killed in an ambush in County Tipperary by members of the paramilitary Irish Republican Army (IRA). The Irish War of Independence had begun: the Dáil devoted itself to securing recognition for Irish independence abroad and established its own administration at home, while the IRA began a campaign of urban and rural guerrilla warfare across the island. The British authorities responded with reprisals and repression, by both military and paramilitary forces, and the conflict steadily became more intense and brutal throughout 1920 and early 1921.

Support for Home Rule had declined but in 1920 the British established two Home Rule parliaments: one in Belfast to govern six north-eastern counties and another in Dublin to govern the remaining twenty-six counties. Partition neutralised most unionist opposition to Irish self-government, but the British government recognised that a more substantial settlement would be needed with Sinn Féin as the War of Independence went on, and as British public opinion turned against military repression. Moves towards a truce intensified following the formal opening of the Northern Ireland parliament by King George V in June 1921, and the conflict formally came to a halt when a truce came into effect on 11 July 1921.

Invoice dated 7 October 1921 and addressed to Art O'Brien of the Irish Self-Determination League of Great Britain, for one month's hire of 'fine Silver, Plate, Cutlery & Glass for House Party, and other goods for staff use', to be used at the Irish delegation's offices at 15 Cadogan Gardens.

National Archives. DE/3/1/1/4

D^R TO

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34, NORTH ROW,
GROSVENOR SQUARE, LONDON, W. 1.

Art O'Brien Esq.
(per J. J. Kenneally Esq.)
37 St James' Place,
SW 1.

October 7 1921.

1921
Oct 7 at 15 Cadogan Gardens

To furnishing on hire for period of One month (4 weeks) fine Silver Plate, Cutlery & Glass for House Party, and other goods for Staff use, according to list supplied, and esteemed order for sum of Forty pounds £ 40 0 0

Received, cheque £40.
With thanks
Mayfair Catering Co. Ltd.
J. J. Kenneally
8/10/21.

(4)

Historical background

The Irish revolution occurred in a world that had been turned upside down by the First World War. The British government had extensive military commitments in Europe and across its global empire. Practically and politically, by the summer of 1921 it was too difficult to sustain its campaign against Sinn Féin and the IRA in Ireland. The truce and the negotiations that led to the Treaty were the consequence.

In July 1921 exploratory talks took place in London between Éamon de Valera, as president of Dáil Éireann, and David Lloyd George, the British prime minister. In late September 1921 Lloyd George sent de Valera 'a fresh invitation to a conference in London on October 11th, where we can meet your delegates as spokesmen of the people whom you represent with a view to ascertaining how the association of Ireland with the community of nations known as the British Empire may best be reconciled with Irish national aspirations'. This invitation was accepted.

The formal negotiations and attendant discussions took place in a variety of locations in London: 10 Downing Street, the London premises of the Irish delegation at Hans Place in Knightsbridge, the Grosvenor Hotel and even the private residences of figures like Winston Churchill. The Irish negotiators were Arthur Griffith (Dáil Éireann's minister for foreign affairs, and the leader of the delegation), Robert Barton (minister for economic affairs), Michael Collins (minister for finance and IRA director of intelligence), Éamonn Duggan and George Gavan Duffy. The British negotiators were David Lloyd George (prime minister), Austen Chamberlain (lord privy seal), Winston Churchill (secretary of state for the colonies), Laming Worthington-Evans (secretary of state for war), Hamar Greenwood (chief secretary for Ireland), Gordon Hewart (attorney general), and F. E. Smith, Lord Birkenhead (lord chancellor).

Letter dated 11 October 1921 from Arthur Griffith to Éamon de Valera giving his impressions of the opening day's meetings between the Irish and British delegations. Griffith noted that the questions of the Crown and Ulster did not arise but predicted that 'When they do the sailing will be rough.' He also described Prime Minister Lloyd George as 'a remarkably suave and astute man'.

National Archives. DE/02/304/01/10/010

Dáil Éireann.

A. G. to President — Park

Recd. 5th Fitzgibbon 84th 11.15. am Oct. 12.

ТОРСАЙРЕАДЪ РЕАДМАННАС НА НЭЙРЕАНН.

2

IRISH DELEGATION OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES.

ОИРІС АН РІНАРДЪ.

SECRETARIAT.

11. 10. 21.

de C. C. C. C.

The meeting to-day has left on my mind the impression that the English Government is anxious for peace and also that this question of naval defence at the costs of Ireland is a fixed idea of theirs - that they believe it vital to their lives.

The questions of the Crown and Ulster did not arise. When they do the sailing will be rough. Today they were amiable and both sides were quite polite to each other. I report herewith what occurred. But of course, the discussion was ^{minor} had very many points of interest, amusement, and instruction. L. G. is a remarkably suave and astute man, but on the whole, we have secret to-day although the most difficult part has yet to be discussed.

do sign (in haste)

A. G.

Tracy Oct 11

Historical background

Beginning on 11 October, the two sides met in plenary sessions until 24 October, after which the talks continued within sub-committees dealing with defence, finance and the maintenance of the truce. From this point on, Collins and Griffith did the bulk of the negotiating on the main issues. Controversially, Éamon de Valera remained in Dublin. The plenipotentiaries (as they were designated) had been authorised by the Dáil to 'negotiate and conclude' a treaty, but their instructions from the Dáil Cabinet specified that they were to refer back to Dublin before making a final decision. This contradiction between the two sets of instructions became a source of tension as time went on, and the necessity to travel back and forth between London and Dublin became a gruelling obligation. While de Valera and the Irish negotiators certainly considered the possibility that he might join the talks in London, his absence meant that, while the British negotiators were led by the prime minister, the Irish team was not being led by his counterpart.

The British negotiators could draw upon a greater degree of political and negotiating experience and the machinery of their own bureaucracy and administration, and had the advantage that the negotiations were taking place in London. The Irish delegation established their own base in London, divided between two townhouses: 22 Hans Place in Knightsbridge and 15 Cadogan Gardens in nearby Chelsea. The delegation itself was much larger than the five plenipotentiaries and included (amongst others) advisers, housekeepers, cooks and secretarial staff to undertake the extensive drafting of documents and press releases. Members of the IRA were also present to provide both security and a confidential means of communication with Ireland. An aircraft was even purchased to allow Collins and some of the delegation to make a quick getaway should negotiations break down. In the end, this was not needed.

2 Sussex Square (Winston Churchill's house)

25 Park Lane (Sir Philip Sassoon's house)

10 Downing Street

Treasury

22 Hans Place

Grosvenor Hotel

15 Cadogan Gardens

Colonial Office

2 Whitehall Gardens

House of Lords

Detail from a 1920 Ordnance Survey map showing the Irish delegation's offices and the various locations in central London at which official negotiations and informal discussions took place between the British and Irish negotiators.

National Library of Scotland.



Arthur Griffith and Michael Collins emerge from 10 Downing Street on 11 October 1921, the first day of the Treaty negotiations. On the far left is Emmet Dalton, who had served in the British Army during the First World War and subsequently joined the IRA; he organised the provision of an aircraft to fly Collins out of London should the talks break down.

Historical background

The member of the Irish delegation were in the public eye as soon as they landed at Holyhead. When they arrived at Downing Street on 11 October they were met by crowds of well-wishers from London's Irish community, though it should be said that the delegation faced hostility from some quarters. The negotiations were covered extensively in the press (Collins was a particular source of fascination). The Irish offices were a magnet for journalists and a diverse range of visitors including literary luminaries such as George Bernard Shaw and Ezra Pound, but the presence of the Irish delegation in London had a serious purpose.

The British government was intent on securing a settlement of the so-called 'Irish question.' The principal issue of concern to them was Ireland's future relationship to the Crown and the British Empire, with naval defence, trade and finance being their other priorities. For the Irish side, sovereignty and Irish unity were the critical issues. The Irish negotiators sought an outcome suggested by de Valera in which Ireland would 'become an external associate of the states of the British Commonwealth' rather than a full member. It was a strategy that implicitly conceded that they were not going to return from London with a fully independent republic. Instead, as Thomas Jones, the deputy secretary to the British Cabinet, had earlier noted, 'they seemed to think of a republic within the Empire' (a concept successfully revived in the 1930s, but which proved unacceptable to the British negotiators in 1921).

Any Irish willingness to accept a formal relationship with the Crown depended on securing concessions on the partition of Ireland. Northern Ireland had been established in May 1921. The Ulster Unionist leader James Craig, as prime minister of Northern Ireland, had enough political support in London to ignore suggestions that he make concessions towards Irish unity.



Four of the five plenipotentiaries onboard the steamer *Curraghmore* at Dún Laoghaire Harbour on 8 October 1921, immediately prior to their departure. Left to right: Robert Barton, Arthur Griffith, Éamonn Duggan, George Gavan Duffy. The fifth plenipotentiary, Michael Collins, travelled to London the following day.

National Library of Ireland. INDH94



Members of the Treaty delegation in 22 Hans Place, Knightsbridge, just after their arrival in London. Back row, left to right: Michael Knightly, John Chartres, George Gavan Duffy, Robert Barton, Éamonn Duggan, Arthur Griffith, Erskine Childers. Seated, far left: Joseph McGrath, D. L. Robinson. Leaning forward, far right: Fionán Lynch. Front, left to right: Lily O'Brennan, Ellie Lyons, May Duggan, Bridget Lynch, Kathleen McKenna, Alice Lyons.

National Library of Ireland. MS 49, 835/15/8



Members of the Irish secretariat making their way to 15 Cadogan Gardens. Left to right: Alice Lyons, Kathleen McKenna and Ellie Lyons.

Military Archives, Dublin. PRCN 063/8

Sub-Conference 14

Ṫáil Éireann.

7

ṪorṪaireáṪ FeaṪmannáṪ na hÉireann.

IRISH DELEGATION OF PLINIPOTENTIARIES.

ṪiṪis an Rúnáiré.

SECRETARIAT.

24th October, 1921.

A Chara,

Miceal and I were asked to see Lloyd George and Cham-
berlain this evening at the conclusioṪ of the Conference.

They talked freely -- Chamberlain frankly. The ~~burden~~
burden of their story was that on the Crown they must fight.
It was the only link of Empire they possessed.

They pressed me to say that I would accept the Crown
provided we came to other agreements. It was evident they
wanted something to reassure themselves against the Die-Hards.
I told them that I had no authority. If we came to an agreement
on all other points I could recommend some form of association
with the Crown. Conversation ranged over the document. They
said it was impossible for them to accept our proposal re
League of Nations and U.S.A. guaranteeing Ireland's freedom.

Question of elective Head arose. They shied at it. ~~It~~
Wholly impossible to them.

Told them the only possibility of Ireland considering
association of any kind with Crown was in exchange for essential
unity -- a concession to Ulster.

Miceal got Chamberlain to admit that the general
feeling in England was for a settlement. He countered their
arguments on defence etc. all the time. But they always
fell back on the impossibility of peace except on acceptance
of Crown.

We agreed to proceed on basis of settling all other ~~x~~
points, leaving Crown to last.

Meet again at 4 to-morrow.

Alp 2 0' 3' m 22 x

Letter from Arthur Griffith to Éamon de Valera, dated 24 October 1921, recounting a private meeting held earlier that day between himself, Michael Collins, David Lloyd George and Austen Chamberlain. 'They talked freely - Chamberlain frankly. The burden of their story was that on the Crown they must fight'.

National Archives. DE/2/304/1/26/2

Ṫáil Éireann.

9.

ṪorṪaireáṪ FeaṪmannáṪ na hÉireann.

IRISH DELEGATION OF PLINIPOTENTIARIES.

ṪiṪis an Rúnáiré.

SECRETARIAT.

October 26th, 1921.

A. E. A Chara,

Your letters reached me this evening. It is impossible
for me, with the engagements we have this evening and the time at
my disposal to deal with all the matters.

I have got a meeting of the delegates and secretaries.
The delegates regard the first paragraph of your letter No. 7 as
tying their hands in discussion and as inconsistent with the
powers given them on their appointment and Nos 1 and 2 of "In-
structions to Plenipotentaries from Cabinet" dated 7th October.

Obviously any form of association necessitates discus-
sion of recognition in some form or other of the head of the as-
sociation. Instruction 2 conferred this power of discussion but
required before a decision was made reference to the members of
the Cabinet in Dublin.

The powers were given by the Cabinet as a whole and can
only be withdrawn or varied by the Cabinet as a whole. Having
regard to the stage discussions have reached now, it is obvious
that we could not continue any longer in the Conference and should
return to Dublin immediately *if the powers were withdrawn.*

d.f.
We strongly resent, in the position in which we are placed,
the interference with our powers. The responsibility, if this in-
terference breaks the very slight possibility there is, of set-
tlement, will not and must not rest on the plenipotentaries.

As to your coming to London, we think, if you can come
without being known, it is most important you should do so immedi-
ately. *But if you cannot come privately do not come publicly unless we*
send you a message that in our opinion it is essential - d.f.

Alp 2 0' 3' m 22

Robaia Caprin

Scoppe & John in Dintons

E. J. O'Donoghue

Miceal O'Connell

Letter to Éamon de Valera, dated 26 October 1921 and signed by the Irish negotiators, revealing the tensions between the instructions they had received from de Valera and the powers granted to them as plenipotentiaries. It also raises the question of whether de Valera should join the conference in London.

National Archives. DE/2/304/1/50/8

Historical background

Lloyd George, as a Liberal prime minister at the head of a coalition dominated by the Conservative Party, was acutely aware any attempt to pressurise Ulster unionism was a step too far for much Tory opinion. He secured a commitment from Arthur Griffith to consider a proposal that Northern Ireland would have a right to vote itself out of a prospective all-Ireland parliament, and that a 'boundary commission' could then adjudicate on the border. This was originally given to protect Lloyd George from potential critics within the Conservative Party but was ultimately used to remove any prospect of the Irish plenipotentiaries breaking off the negotiations over the issue of partition.

Partition is often assumed to have been the main point of contention in the negotiations, but sovereignty was the central issue for both sides. The British intended to maintain the integrity of an empire that, unlike many of its counterparts, had emerged victorious from the cataclysm of the First World War. The complete 'secession' of a substantial portion of the United Kingdom was never going to be acceptable to the British in these circumstances, nor was the idea that Ireland become semi-detached from the empire by what was termed an 'external association'. The Irish plenipotentiaries were in no position to bridge the gap between their stance and that of the British. While the British made various concessions to the Irish towards the end of the talks, they forced the Irish to agree to the Treaty with a warning from Lloyd George 'that those who were not for peace must take full responsibility for the war that would immediately follow refusal by any Delegate to sign the Articles of Agreement.'

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- 'Partition Areas Shewn Thus'
- 'Anti-Partition Areas Shewn Thus'
- 'Equally Divided Areas Shewn Thus'
- 'Ulster Boundary Shewn Thus'

Partition was a key issue for the Irish negotiators. They argued that the existing territory of Northern Ireland could be adjusted to reflect the reality of nationalist majorities in certain areas that might wish to come under the jurisdiction of a new Irish state. This map, from Robert Barton's papers, indicates the political geography of north-east Ulster. It displays areas with populations that, the negotiators argued, would be in favour of, or opposed to, partition, delineated according to local government districts.

National Archives. PRIV1093/8/1



Historical background

The eventual Treaty created the Irish Free State as a 'dominion' with the same constitutional status as Canada. Its terms proved sufficiently divisive to lead to a bitter and devastating civil war in Ireland from June 1922 onwards, but this could not be foreseen with certainty on 6 December 1921, and the exhibition is not concerned with events after the signing of the Treaty. Instead, it is intended to explore the paths that led to the Treaty, and to open a window into the world in which the Irish delegation operated during their time in London. It does so through the documentary record that they left behind, much of it drafted by secretarial staff like Kathleen McKenna and Lily O'Brennan, and retained by the National Archives in Dublin and other archives in Ireland. The exhibition aims to cast light on the outcomes that the Irish negotiators sought and on the choices that they were presented with; their own words are the surest guide.

By Dr John Gibney, Assistant Editor, Documents on Irish Foreign Policy (DIFP), Royal Irish Academy. The DIFP series publishes archival material relating to Ireland's foreign relations since 1919 and is a partnership project of the Royal Irish Academy, the National Archives and the Department of Foreign Affairs.
www.difp.ie

Note of a meeting on
30 October 1921 between
members of the two delegations
in Winston Churchill's house.

National Archives. PRIV 1093/1/10

CONFERENCE ON IRELAND

Memorandum of A Meeting at Mr Churchill's House at ten
p.m. Sunday, October 30th, 1921.

Present:-

Mr Griffith
Mr Collins

Mr Lloyd George
Mr Churchill
Lord Birkenhead

SECRET.

Conversation between Mr Griffith and Mr Lloyd George.

Mr Lloyd George was anxious to know whether the Irish Memorandum of yesterday's date might be relied upon as a bona fide statement made in the interest of peace, and asked for further explanations. He said that three things were vital, namely, the Crown, the Empire and the Navy, and conversation ensued on these and other points.

The Crown. Mr Lloyd George asked for a personal assurance on this point. Mr Griffith gave him the assurance that we should be prepared to recommend a recognition of the Crown provided that we were satisfied on the other points at issue, and it was agreed that the formula in which this recognition was to be couched should be arrived at in discussion at a later stage.

The Empire. The formula defining the association of Ireland with the Empire was left over.

Naval and Air Defence. Mr Griffith pointed out that a new demand, namely that Ireland should have no Air Force, had been put forward in the last British document. Mr Lloyd George was understood to indicate that the point would not be pressed, at any rate as regards the military Air Force.

As regards the prohibition of an Irish Navy Mr Lloyd George said that this did not exclude revenue craft and gunboats, but he hoped it would exclude mine-layers. Mr Griffith suggested that there might be a time limit, say thirty years, and Mr Lloyd suggested that the prohibition should hold good until an agreement to the contrary was made.

Army. Mr Lloyd George suggested that the Irish military force should be limited to a size proportionate to population as compared with the British forces. Taking 400,000 as the British figure this would give Ireland 40,000 of which 10,000 would be allotted to Ulster. Mr Griffith said that in no circumstances could we agree to an Ulster army, whereupon Mr Lloyd George suggested a militia for Ulster. This point was left open.

Trade. Mr Lloyd George argued that a Convention as proposed in the Irish Memorandum was not possible as it could be broken off at any time. It was necessary to satisfy Ulster that its raw materials would not be taxed. Mr Griffith said that he did not wish at that time to deal with technicalities, but some agreement might be come to which would safeguard Ulster's industries.

Ulster. Mr Lloyd George said that he could carry a six-county Parliament subordinate to a national Parliament. Alternatively he said he would try to carry a plan for a new boundary or a vote on the inclusion or exclusion of the whole of Ulster as a unit, but he was not hopeful of doing so.

21/1/1921

in Southern Ireland since the passing of the Government of Ireland Act, 1920, and for constituting a provisional Government, and the British Government shall take the steps necessary to transfer to such provisional Government the powers and machinery requisite for the discharge of its duties, provided that every member of such provisional Government shall have signified in writing his or her acceptance of this instrument. But this arrangement shall not continue in force beyond the expiration of twelve months from the date hereof.

18. This instrument shall be submitted forthwith by His Majesty's Government for the approval of Parliament and by the Irish signatories to a meeting summoned for the purpose of the members elected to sit in the House of Commons of Southern Ireland, and if approved shall be ratified by the necessary legislation.

On behalf of the Irish

Delegation

deputat O'Connell

Micéal O'Connell

Roberto Casarini

Edmond L. Dugan
Secretary to the Delegation

December 6, 1921.

On behalf of the British

Delegation

A. Lloyd George

Arthur Henderson

Birkenhead

Christie Churchill

About the Exhibition



The Treaty, 1921: Records from the Archives consists of a wall-mounted, illustrated exhibition text; a selection of records and documents, many on public display for the first time; historical newsreel footage and press coverage from the period; and audio recordings and digitised versions of the documents on display, accessible through a number of touchscreens.

Records and Documents

The centrepiece of the exhibition is the 1921 Anglo-Irish Treaty. It is accompanied by over 60 documents and records relating to the negotiation and signing of the Treaty, including truce negotiations (June–September 1921), the presidential order appointing the plenipotentiaries, typescript and hand-written letters by the plenipotentiaries and delegation members, invoices, receipts and accounts relating to the delegation's time in London at 15 Cadogan Gardens and 22 Hans Place and original, hand-written minutes of Dáil Cabinet meetings.

Wall Text and Graphics

The exhibition is organised into a series of titled sections including:

- Truce and preliminary negotiations, July–September 1921
- The Irish revolution: a political timeline from Home Rule to truce (1912–1921)
- The Irish delegation
- Instructions to the delegation
- The journey to London
- Life in London
- The Irish Self-Determination League of Great Britain
- The British delegation
- The Treaty negotiations

- The choreography of the negotiations
- The final days
- Key issues
- Concluding the Treaty
- The Anglo-Irish Treaty of 6 December 1921
- Understanding the Treaty
- International reaction
- Who signed the Treaty?
- Returning home
- The immediate aftermath

Historical Film Footage

Interspersed throughout the exhibition is newsreel footage and press coverage relating to the War of Independence, the Treaty negotiations, the journey of the Treaty delegation to London and global reaction in the immediate aftermath of the signing.

Audio Recordings

Actors bring to life dramatised quotes and extracts from correspondence by individuals present at the negotiations in London including David Lloyd George, Arthur Griffith, Michael Collins, Winston Churchill, and other members of the delegation including Kathleen McKenna.

Touchscreens

Digitised copies of the full version of multi-page documents on display may be viewed on touchscreens at the end of the exhibition.

Visualisation of the exhibition in the Coach House Gallery showing the Irish delegates and the signed Treaty.

Exhibition Information



Exhibition launch: 6 December 2021



Exhibition dates: 7 December – 27 March 2022



Opening hours: 10am – 5pm, daily

Please note: Different opening times may apply during the Christmas period. Please check the National Archives website for details.



Coach House Gallery,
Dublin Castle Gardens,
Dame Street,
Dublin 2,
D02 X822



Admission free



Booking details at www.nationalarchives.ie



Virtual Tour

A virtual tour of the exhibition can be taken online at
www.nationalarchives.ie/treaty-1921-virtual-tour

Crowds gathered outside UCD on Dublin's Earlsfort Terrace during the Dáil debate on the terms of the Treaty, which began on 14 December 1921.

National Library of Ireland. INDH112A

Acknowledgements

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Dr Barry Houlihan

The National Archives, UK

Jeff James
Patricia Humphries
Dr Neil Johnston

National Archives Treaty Exhibition Team

Zoë Reid
Elizabeth McEvoy
Suzanne Bedell
Rosemary King
Linda Tobin

National Archives Commemoration Programme Steering Group

Orlaith McBride
Zoë Reid
Linda Tobin
Niamh McDonnell
Hazel Menton
Natalie Milne
Melissa Collins
Antoinette Doran

National Archives Commemoration Programme Manager

Karen Downey

Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media (Commemorations Unit)

Rónán Whelan
Sinéad Copeland

Teresa Napoli McKenna

Professor Eda Sagarra

Fiona Murray

Ruth Bourke

Rose Mary O'Brien

Phil Behan and family

Liz Gillis

Dr Pat McBride

Eilish Rafferty

Elina Sironen

Mark Doris

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An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán
Department of Tourism, Culture,
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media



OPW

On behalf of the Irish
Delegation

deputé Ó Zmóbiú (author of the)

Micéad Ó Corleann

Ruobspó O'Connell

Edmund L. O'Donnell

Seán Zmóbiú is interested.

December 6, 1921.

Luc

National Archives

Bishop Street, Dublin 8
D08 DF85, Ireland
www.nationalarchives.ie

📧 @narieland
🐦 @NARIreland

Phone: +353 (0)1 407 2300
Lo Call: +353 1890 252424
Fax: +353 (0)1 407 2333
Email: query@nationalarchives.ie



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National Archives