

Brexit: the Irish Dimension
16 June 2016
Hoare Memorial Hall, Church House
London
Remarks by Anthony Bailey

you all for attending this evening and may I extend a
e to Professor Mary McAleese and to members of the dip
nd to parliamentarians.

tish and Irish citizen and proudly so, I am delighted to be a
: this publication, *Brexit: the Irish Dimension*.

debates of the last few months about Britain's relationsh
the consequences of Brexit on the relations between c
es have too often appeared as an afterthought.

d not be. The people of Ireland, north and south, have a pa
: in the question of whether or not the UK leaves the EU. Fo
island it should be equally so.

rish relations have had, as we all know, a chequered histo
ie relationship has been marked by conflict, tragedy and
s of mistrust and suspicion.

he last two decades the atmosphere has changed; the Brit
ve commenced the long awaited period of courtship and h

ght home to me that at times it wasn't easy growing up
London in the 1980's with an Irish and Catholic backgrou
; it at times when travelling home to Ireland having been b
d in London and with a British accent to boot.

many others with a stake in the Anglo-Irish relationship
ything to derail the progress we have seen over the last 2
tual membership of the EU has provided common ground
Ireland to establish a new relationship; one that enable
fter with some of the contentious issues of the past and wl
us forward together.

ort puts the progress of recent years in context and remin
th and scale of the contemporary relationship between
es, and how important our joint membership of the EU is
ship.

it will be read with the seriousness it deserves and
usness of the great decision that faces all of us next week.

700.

ow my distinct pleasure to introduce our keynote
;or **Mary McAleese** who has played such a fundamental

is also an impressive current affairs reporter, the Reporter in Trinity College Dublin, and a passionate and articulate champion of many social, political and faith based issues.

Through the emotional reach of the Presidency to the formal constitutional and ceremonial functions,

she reached out to the global Irish community like no other.

McAleese's life has always straddled the two parts of Ireland through insights and contacts north and south, in both national and international communities.

During her term as President the 1998 Good Friday Agreement and the successful establishment of the Northern Ireland Assembly with a power-sharing executive came into being.

She provided a platform with First Minister Ian Paisley.

One of her most significant and historic public engagements was her meeting with Britain's Queen Elizabeth II.

On 11 November 1998 – the first anniversary of her inauguration, they jointly opened the Irish peace tower in West Flaxfield which commemorates all the Irish troops who died in the