

true position of the members of the British Commonwealth of Nations in regard to treaty procedure. So far as the Government of Saorstát Eireann is aware it has never been held by any member of the British Commonwealth of Nations that in a multilateral treaty each member does not enter into a specific contract with the other States parties to the Treaty. Even those members of the British Commonwealth of Nations who take the view that multilateral treaties are not applicable inter se, do not hold the view that the British Commonwealth of Nations contracts as a unit vis-a-vis other States parties to multilateral treaties.

In regard to the proposal of the South African Government that a public declaration should be made by the members of the British Commonwealth of Nations in the terms set out on page 5 of the South African High Commissioner's letter to the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs on the 8th June, the Government of the Irish Free State do not consider that such a declaration would add anything to what has already been publicly stated and would not clarify in their view the position of members of the British Commonwealth of Nations in regard to multilateral treaties.

I return herewith the enclosures to your letter of the 5th November.

(Signed) SEAN MURPHY.  
Secretary.