

PRIME MINISTER

VISIT OF THE TAOISEACH

At 1250 p.m. the Irish Ambassador telephoned the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to say that Mr. Lynch had read an article in the Irish Times this morning which suggested that he was being summoned to London next week to account for the tragedies of last Monday. Mr. Lynch was apparently absolutely incensed by this article, and told his officials that he intended to issue a statement today saying that it was not possible for him to come to London on this basis, and that the visit was cancelled.

The Irish Embassy official went on to say that Mr. Lynch's advisers had then gone over the programme for next Wednesday with him pointing out that you had invited him to lunch and that matters other than security were to be covered. As a result of this, Mr. Lynch had told officials that he would not cancel the visit provided the FCO now put out a statement that:-

- (i) other matters besides security were to be discussed; and
- (ii) the Taoiseach himself had suggested a meeting with you prior to last Monday's killings. (You will recall that Mr. Lynch sent you a message on 24 August inviting you to Dublin at some point).

The FCO advice is as follows:-

They say it would be absolutely wrong for us to be putting out a statement countermanding a misleading report in a foreign newspaper. But they think that something must be done to mollify Mr. Lynch, while at the same time not giving any impression of grovelling.

Their preference would be for you to make a telephone call to Mr. Lynch today saying:-

/(i)

- (i) how much you were looking forward to seeing him next Wednesday and that you were very glad he was coming (this would in effect be in response to his message at Flag A accepting your invitation).
- (ii) The talks will of course cover other matters besides security - in particular EEC issues.
- (iii) It is not surprising that some of the press reports both in Britain and in Ireland have been rather misleading and appear to be making trouble - by suggesting that security is to be the only issue under discussion and by ignoring the fact that Mr. Lynch had already suggested a meeting.

If you prefer not to speak to Mr. Lynch personally, the FCO suggest that you send a message on the lines of the attached draft (Flag B). This does not mention the press point. But our Ambassador in Dublin, when handing the message over, would say that we are surprised at some of the press reporting on the visit, and that HMG certainly have not been responsible for the impression that Mr. Lynch is being summoned.

At Flag C is the invitation which we sent to Mr. Lynch.

The FCO have been in touch with the Northern Ireland Office to keep them abreast of what is going on.

Tim Lankester

1 September 1979

It would be absurd to speak to Mr. Lynch. Please send the Flag B message. - Ambassador needs any other "arrangement" - he can point out that I said on radio that Mr. Lynch was as anxious to step out tomorrow as I was.
D.T.

SUGGESTED MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE TAOISEACH

Thank you for your letter of 30 August. I am looking forward very much to seeing you.

Recent tragic events have delayed my reply to your invitation of 24 August to have talks with you in Dublin in your capacity as President of the European Council as well as on Northern Ireland questions.

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I suggested in my letter of 30 August that we should meet during your visit to London next week to discuss Lord Mountbatten's horrifying murder and its implications. I thought I might also take up your kind invitation to discuss European Community topics. I propose therefore that we discuss EEC and other questions of this kind over lunch. After that we should have a private talk before we are joined by our colleagues to discuss security matters across on both sides of the border.

I know that we are both equally anxious to stamp out terrorism. I hope that these arrangements are in line with what you too had in mind.

This is the PM's redraft of
the FCO draft. She asked
me to titivate it further
as necessary. I agreed
with FCO to change the
wording at X to 'cross border
security'.

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3/9

I suggested in my letter of 30 August that we should meet during your visit to London next week to discuss Lord Mountbatten's horrifying murder and its implications. I thought it would be useful, however, to take the opportunity to broaden our talks to discuss other topics. My intention therefore is that we should discuss EEC and other questions of this kind over lunch, before we have a private talk and are then joined by our colleagues to discuss the range of issues arising out of the recent developments. I hope that these arrangements are in line with what you too had in mind.

Speed out

INVITATION TO THE TAOISEACH

Appreciated your letter of condolence over the murder of Lord Mountbatten, his grandson Nicholas and of Paul Maxwell. You will know that the Dowager Lady Brabourne has since died from her terrible injuries.

I understand that an invitation has been extended to you to attend Lord Mountbatten's ceremonial funeral which is to take place at Westminster Abbey on Wednesday, 5 September. If, as I hope, you are coming to London, I should find it most valuable if we could meet during your visit to discuss this tragic affair and its implications.

If this is acceptable to you I suggest that our officials make the necessary arrangements.