



Prime Minister

Apex Annexes A + C ?

Yes not sure

Ref. A03635

MR. ALEXANDER

Anglo-Irish Summit - 8th December

The Prime Minister is to visit Dublin on 8th December for talks with Mr. Haughey. She will be accompanied by the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and one other Minister. The Prime Minister has suggested that this should be the Chancellor of the Exchequer: Sir Geoffrey Howe has said that he will be available.

2. When they met in London on 21st May, the Prime Minister and Mr. Haughey agreed to this being the first of a series of "regular" meetings. Its broad purpose is to develop what was described in the communique from that meeting as the unique relationship between the two countries, although in practice by far the most important topics for discussion will be those relating to Northern Ireland. But it is well understood in Dublin that a wide-ranging agenda is needed, and there will be scope for useful exchanges on European Community and other international issues. In this context, it is relevant that the Irish Republic will be on the United Nations Security Council for the next two years. The meeting between the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach should offer an opportunity to urge the Republic to follow policies in the Security Council which are consistent with the general Western interest, and to offer close collaboration between our two Missions in New York. For, while Irish positions on international affairs are generally compatible with our own and the Irish work wholeheartedly within the political co-operation machinery of the Nine, their traditional neutrality has caused them to take an independent and occasionally unhelpful line on issues such as some aspects of East/West relations and South Africa.

3. On Northern Ireland, we have been placed on notice that Mr. Haughey will propose an inter-governmental conference which would in some as yet undefined way enable the future of the Province to be considered in a wider framework than that within which it has hitherto been confined. Mr. Haughey's aim seems likely

CONFIDENTIAL



to be to secure the Prime Minister's agreement that the Republic has a special role to play over Northern Ireland and not simply that of an interested bystander. We do not yet know how far he will wish to press this line but he may seek to secure some commitment from the Prime Minister over Northern Ireland at either this meeting or the next one which he can exploit for electoral purposes. He will probably want to be able to show that he has secured something in return for the assistance he has been giving in improving Northern Irish security since he became Taoiseach. It will, on the other hand, be in our interest to try to obtain from Mr. Haughey himself an endorsement of the British Government's line on the Maze hunger strikers whose condition is likely to be becoming increasingly critical at the time of the Dublin meeting.

4. The current plan is that the visit should take place inside one day. The Prime Minister's party would arrive at about 10.30 am. She would then go straight into a tete-a-tete with Mr. Haughey until lunch, while other Ministers met separately. After lunch there would be a plenary session, with the Prime Minister and her party departing at around 4.30 pm. Neither these plans nor the venue for the meeting and the lunch have yet been fixed: there will be a need for a high-level of security for the Prime Minister, particularly since the Maze Prison hunger strike will be reaching a critical stage at the time when she is in Dublin.

5. I enclose at Annexes A and B statements of the British and Irish objectives and at Annex C a proposed list of briefs. The agenda is likely to fall into three broad sections: Northern Ireland issues, other bilateral issues, international and European Community issues. The Northern Ireland briefs are likely to contain very sensitive material and will have to be given a different and more restrictive distribution than the others. Although time is short, I would hope to be able to let you have the briefs by Friday, 28th November. But it could be necessary to extend the deadline into the beginning of the following week with some of the briefs only arriving in time for the briefing meeting arranged for Wednesday, 3rd December.

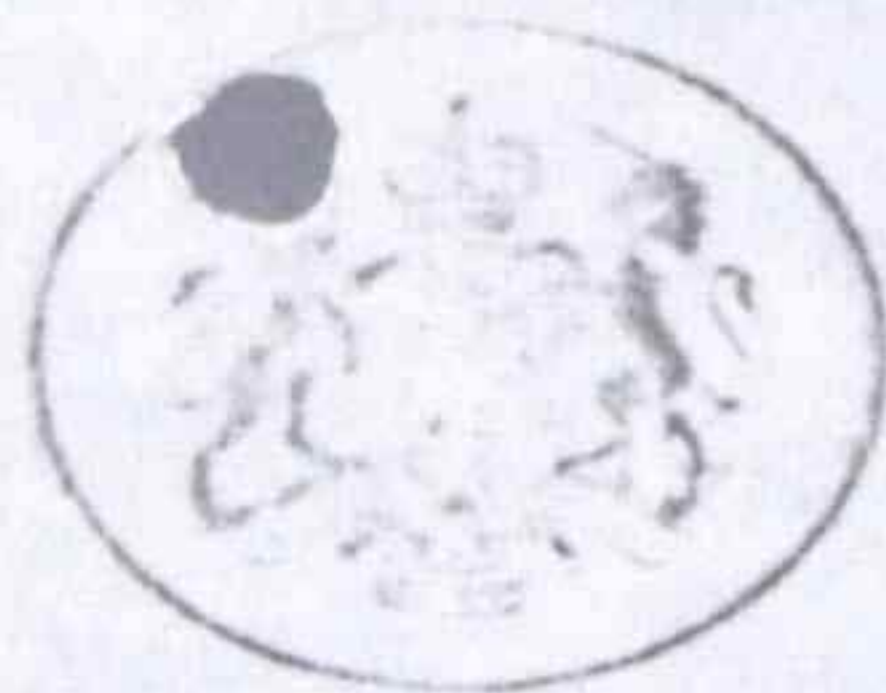
RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

24th November, 1980

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

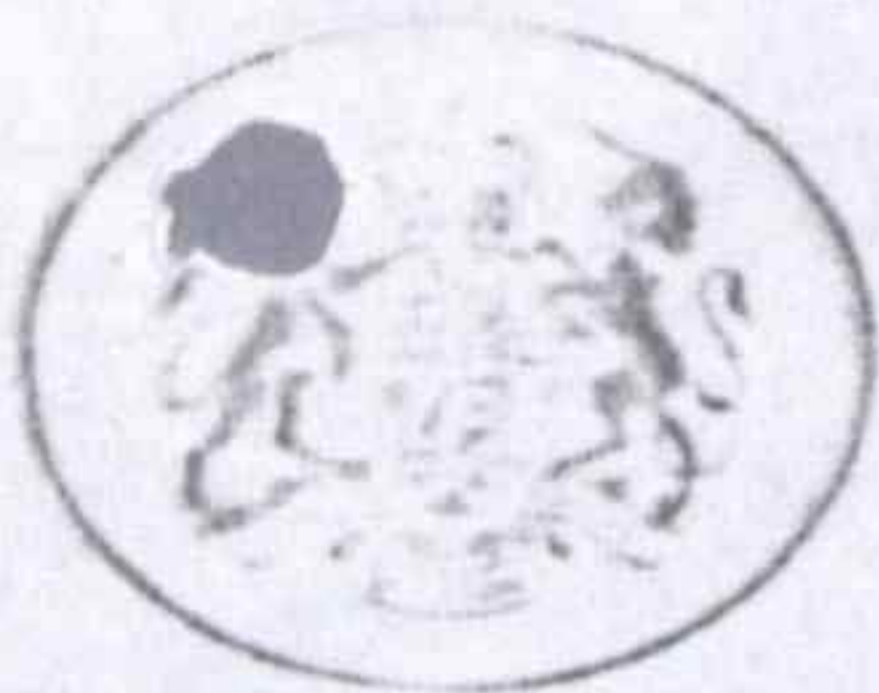


ANNEX A

ANGLO-IRISH SUMMIT: 8 DECEMBER 1980

UNITED KINGDOM OBJECTIVES

1. To ensure, as far as possible, that the Taoiseach is given no pretext or incentive to reverse his present cautious policy over Northern Ireland; and to encourage him to maintain the present high level of security cooperation.
2. Cautiously to explore the extent to which it may be possible, and in the United Kingdom's interest, to devise arrangements under which the Northern Ireland problem can be considered by the two governments in the context of an evolving "unique relationship". But to avoid any commitment which would risk provoking a loyalist backlash in Northern Ireland.
3. To influence Irish positions on international issues and, with reference to Irish membership of the Security Council, to encourage them to work closely with us.
4. To gain Irish support on European Community issues of concern to us.



ANGLO-IRISH SUMMIT: 8 DECEMBER 1980

IRISH OBJECTIVES

1. To secure the agreement of the Prime Minister to procedures (either a conference or some other form of consultative process) under which the Irish Government would be seen to have a rôle in relation to the future of Northern Ireland. And to ensure that the Taoiseach is in a position to derive the maximum electoral advantage from such an agreement.
2. To convince the Prime Minister (but without making detailed commitments which could be politically risky in an election year) that the evolution of the 'unique relationship' offers a chance of progress towards an 'agreed Ireland' on a basis which would meet the real interests and concerns of the Protestant Community in the North and which would be in the long term interests of Her Majesty's Government.
3. To emphasise the paramount importance to the Irish economy of the Common Agricultural Policy and the need to safeguard Irish interests during future discussion of 'restructuring'.



Anglo-Irish Summit: 8th December 1980

List of Briefs (with suggested lead Departments indicated)

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 1. | <u>Steering Brief</u> (with Secret limited distribution annex on the "unique relationship") | FCO/NIO |
| <u>Northern Ireland</u> | | |
| 2. | Political Situation | NIO |
| 3. | Security | NIO |
| 4. | <u>The Hunger Strike and the Prison Protests</u> | NIO |
| 5. | North/South Economic Co-operation (excluding Energy) | NIO |
| 6. | The Northern Irish Economy | |
| <u>Bilateral Issues</u> | | |
| 7. | Energy (including North/South co-operation on energy matters) | NIO/Energy |
| 8. | Economic and Monetary Policy | Treasury |
| 9. | Citizenship Questions and Voting Rights for United Kingdom Citizens in the Republic | FCO/Home Office |
| <u>European Community Issues</u> | | |
| 10. | Budget Restructuring and CAP Reform | FCO/
Treasury/
MAFF |
| 11. | Fisheries | FCO/MAFF |
| 12. | Other Community Issues (including EMS) | FCO/Treasury/
other Depts.
as necessary |
| <u>International Affairs</u> | | |
| 13. | Iran/Iraq
Arab/Israel
East-West Relations
Afghanistan
South Africa/Namibia | FCO |