

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY



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PS/Secretary of State for
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Downing Street
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3 May 1979

Dear Paul

VISIT BY THE TAOISEACH: 10 MAY 1979

Thank you for sending Joe Pilling a copy of your letter of 2 May to Bryan Cartledge about the Taoiseach's private visit to London on 10 May.

We accept that it would be appropriate, if time can be spared, for the Prime Minister to offer Mr Lynch the opportunity of a short courtesy call as long as it can be clearly understood on both sides that it is to be - and is to be presented publicly as - no more than that. It will obviously be much too early for the new administration to be entering into any substantive discussion of Northern Ireland problems, and it will be desirable to make this quite clear when the invitation is issued - indeed, perhaps that point might be made through prior informal contact with the Irish.

We shall separately suggest to the new Secretary of State for Northern Ireland that he sends an early, private message to the Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs saying that he looks forward to a relatively early talk with him. The Prime Minister could mention this proposed meeting to the Taoiseach in confidence, with the implication that it would be the next substantive contact between the ^{two} Governments on the Northern Ireland problem.

I am copying this to Bryan Cartledge (No 10) and Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely
M W Hopkins

M W HOPKINS

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