

SECRET AND PERSONAL

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Ireland May 75
(Visit of Taoiseach)



Ireland

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

cc Mr. Vile (C.O.).

6 September 1979

Dear Howard,

VISIT OF THE TAOISEACH 5 SEPTEMBER 1979

When the Prime Minister saw Mr. Lynch yesterday she suggested to him during their *tete-a-tete* discussion that, as part of the general effort to improve co-operation in the security field between the British and Irish authorities, you should meet your Irish opposite number to identify ways in which the Garda and the Security Service can work even more closely together than now to obtain and exchange intelligence. Mr. Lynch agreed that such a meeting should take place.

You should know that the Prime Minister did not raise with Mr. Lynch the question of the political inhibitions that impeded what the two services have hitherto been able to accomplish together. Nor did she mention the possibility of the appointment of a member of the Security Service to our Embassy in Dublin, and of a similar appointment of a member of the Garda to London.

The Prime Minister and Mr. Lynch did not discuss how soon you and your opposite number should report on the outcome of your study of ways in which co-operation should be improved. But as you will see from the record of the plenary meeting, a copy of which is being sent to you separately, it was agreed that British and Irish Ministers should meet in about three weeks' time to take stock of the progress achieved in the follow-up on the various other proposals for greater Anglo/Irish security co-operation which were discussed yesterday. I suggest that you and your Irish colleague work to the same time scale.

We shall also be sending you separately, for your information, a copy of the record of the *tete-a-tete* discussion between the Prime Minister and Mr. Lynch. Because of its sensitivity I have not included in that record any mention of what the two Prime Ministers agreed about your meeting with your Irish opposite number.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Brian Cubbon at the Northern Ireland Office.

Yours sincerely,

John Hume

Sir Howard Smith, KCMG