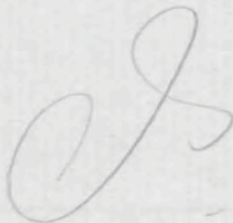




10 DOWNING STREET

MR. COLES

The Foreign Office have suggested Wednesday 23 June for the Irish bilaterals. When you receive their letter can you be sure to have a word with me as I wish to explain to you the pros and cons of this particular date.



18 January 1982

Free



bc: Miss Stephens

089

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

DATE OF NEXT ANGLO-IRISH SUMMIT

The Prime Minister has seen your minute of 12 January. She considers that it would be better to hold the Summit much later than May since she doubts whether much progress will have been made by the Spring. Nevertheless, the Prime Minister agrees that you may say during your meeting with Mr. Dermot Nally, if necessary, that she is thinking in terms of a meeting some time in May. Should the matter come up, you may wish to have in mind that there is very little free time in the Prime Minister's diary for May. The most convenient date for a Summit would probably be Monday, 3 May which is a Bank Holiday here but not in Dublin.

I am sending copies of this letter to Brian Fall (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), and Stephen Boys-Smith (Northern Ireland Office).

E.C. COLES

14 January 1982

NW



MR. COLES

I can now confirm that Monday 3 May will be a Bank Holiday in this country this year. But as we discussed yesterday it really is the only date I can offer you in May for a visit to Dublin. Would you like to proceed?

If you offer it to the Prime Minister please remind her that she will be staying at Milton with Stephen Hastings over the weekend.

*es.*

Conline *es. 14/1*

14 January 1982

*P. N. has agreed that  
3 May can be mentioned  
as a possibility.*

*MR 14/1*



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

The only date you have available in May for an Anglo-Irish Summit is Monday, 3 May. This is a Bank Holiday here but not in Dublin.

2. Agree that, if the question is raised with him, the Cabinet Secretary should say that you are thinking in terms of May - and that he should add if necessary that 3 May would be the most convenient day for you?

A.T.C.

13/1/82.



Ref. A07118

PRIME MINISTER

Date of Next Anglo-Irish Summit

I have arranged to go to Dublin for a meeting with Mr. Dermot Nally on 20th January. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the implementation of proposals contained in the joint studies and agreed at your meeting with the Taoiseach on 6th November 1981. The meeting will be a procedural one to discuss proposals we have put to the Irish about the practical arrangements for the Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental Council; and to explore with them how we might bring into being the "Encounter" organisation envisaged in the joint studies as a preliminary stage in the establishment of an Advisory Committee.

2. Mr. Nally may ask me about the date of the next Anglo-Irish Summit. The 6th November communique records that "The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach looked forward to holding their next meeting in the spring of next year in Dublin in the framework of the new institutional arrangements agreed upon at this meeting". Meetings are supposed to take place not less frequently than once a year. We have tended to resist Irish attempts in the past to interpret this to mean every six months. But in the present instance it would be difficult to maintain that a meeting later than May would still be "in the spring". There is in any case something to be said for a date in May, since the early part of June is very busy (the Economic Summit, and probably a State Visit), and from about the middle of June onwards the political temperature in Northern Ireland tends to rise with the approach of the marching season. Both FCO and NIO think that May would be about right.

3. I do not propose to raise this topic with Mr. Nally, but if he should do so, it would be helpful if I could give them a preliminary indication of your views. May I be authorised to say, if necessary, that you are thinking in terms of a meeting some time in May?

*Yes - but - it would be better  
much later. We shall*

4. I am sending copies of this minute to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

*not now*

*REA*

*for far by Spring,*

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

*not*

12th January, 1982