

MR COLES

*Inland
22 May (by hand)*

IRISH BILATERALS

I think I should bring you up-to-date on the above as we are about to run into difficulties.

I now have four dates blocked out in the Prime Minister's diary for talks:-

Monday, 3 May (Bank Holiday in this country)

Friday, 7 May (possible lunch for Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq)

Monday, 21 June (date convenient for the Prime Minister)

Wednesday, 23 June (date convenient for the Prime Minister but Cabinet Office not happy as the Irish tend to blow things up on this date!)

But the Foreign Secretary has the following difficulties:-

Monday, 3 May - he is being given a secret treat by his family for his wedding anniversary

Friday, 7 May - he will be in the United States

Monday, 21 June - he will be in Brussels

Which leaves 23 June which the Cabinet Office are not happy with. (en passe!)

ed.

9 February, 1982



FILE

SW

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG
Cabinet Office

cc. Miss Stephens

Next Anglo/Irish Summit

Thank you for your minute of 2 February.

We shall do our best to keep 7 May and 21 June clear in the Prime Minister's diary, but I understand that on both days the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary has unavoidable commitments abroad. We have therefore provisionally blocked off Saturday, 22 May as well, though this is Cup Final day and the Prime Minister may decide that she must attend this event. There appear to be no other possibilities.

I shall assume that we need do nothing more until the results of the Irish election are known.

A. J. COLES

CS

9 February, 1982



Friday 3 May
7 May USA
2 June Bonn
23 June Paris
up-

10 DOWNING STREET

Willie

Can you pl. investigate. I
think 7 May would mean moving
the launch to the Iraqi. Can
this be done?

A.T.C.

3/2

John

The Iraqis are in the diary for 7 May
or 16 June. I have asked the
FCO to let us know

- whether a date has been chosen; or
- whether there are any other dates
the Iraqis can do.

Willie

WJ
3/2

Thank you. Can you let me know
the outcome? A.T.C. - 3/2



Ref. A07311

MR. COLES

Next Anglo-Irish Summit

I have seen your minute of 1st February to Mr. Wright.

2. I think that it is very difficult to take this matter any further until after the Irish election on 18th February. In the meantime, I suggest that you should endeavour to keep 7th May and 21st June clear in the Prime Minister's diary, so that we do not add to the difficult problem of finding a date, if after the election it seems that we are going to need an Anglo-Irish Summit in May or June.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

2nd February, 1982



Ireland

JR

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

MR. WRIGHT
CABINET OFFICE

NEXT ANGLO-IRISH SUMMIT

In my minute of 14 January to Sir Robert Armstrong I said that the Prime Minister would prefer to hold the next Summit much later than May but that the possibility of a meeting in May could be mentioned should this prove necessary during the Cabinet Secretary's meeting with Mr. Dermot Nally on 20 January. I indicated that the most convenient date in May for the Prime Minister would be 3 May.

In his minute of 22 January Sir Robert Armstrong stated that he had accordingly told Mr. Nally, in answer to the latter's question, that May might be a possibility.

Since my minute of 14 January, I have learned that 3 May is not a very suitable date for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. I do not know whether the difficulties they see are overriding but you should be aware that the possibility of finding another date in May is very slight. I have not consulted the Prime Minister but she might just be able to manage 7 May on the assumption that the lunch that she is giving for the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq on that day can be moved. I see no other possible date in May.

If at a later stage we wish to think in terms of June, the only two possibilities that I can see at the moment are 21 June and 23 June.

We probably do not need to take any further action pending the outcome of the Irish elections later this month. But, subject to that and since the Prime Minister's diary for both May and June is already under considerable pressure, the Cabinet Secretary may wish to examine the problem further and consider whether to advise that any of the dates mentioned above be firmly earmarked for a possible Summit at the present stage. There is some danger that unless contingency action of this kind is taken we may discover later that we cannot find a suitable day.

A. L. COHEN

1 February 1982

WR

B/F
8/2

CONFIDENTIAL

Ireland (2)
Prime Minister



A.S.C. 29.
1

Ref. A07287

MR COLES

P.A.
AOL 1/2.

Anglo-Irish Encounter

Thank you for your minute of 28 January.

2. As you say, since my minute of 26 January the Irish Government has fallen. I had occasion to have a word with Mr Nally on 27 January, and we agreed that action on the choice of Chairmen for the Anglo-Irish Encounter should be put into cold storage, and considered again after the election.

3. I am sending copies of this minute to Mr Fall and to Mr Boys-Smith.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

29 January 1982

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Ireland

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de 15



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Anglo-Irish Encounter

The Prime Minister has seen your minute of 26 January proposing that we should invite Sir David Orr to be the British Chairman of the Encounter. Since your minute was written, the Irish Government has fallen. The Prime Minister has accordingly asked whether we ought not to hold up these things in view of the Irish election. Unless you wish to put further advice to the Prime Minister, therefore, I shall assume that this matter will be looked at again when we know the results of the election.

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

A. J. COLES

28 January 1982

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