

SUBJECT

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SECRET

FILE

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

19 June 1983

Dear John,

MEETING BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER
AND DR: GARRET FITZGERALD

The Prime Minister had a meeting with Dr. Garret FitzGerald in the margins of the European Council at Stuttgart on Sunday, 19 June. I enclose a record of the conversation.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to John Lyon (Northern Ireland Office), Tony Rawsthorne (Home Office) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office). I should be grateful if you and they could ensure that the record is carefully protected.

Yours ever

John Lyson

J:E. Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

SECRET

RECORD OF A CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE
TAOISEACH AT STUTTGART AT 0830 HOURS ON SUNDAY, 19 JUNE 1983

Present

The Prime Minister
Sir Robert Armstrong
Mr. A J Coles

Dr. Garret FitzGerald
Mr. D. Nally

* * * * *

After a brief exchange of views about the progress of the European Council, Dr. FitzGerald said he had one or two points to raise in the security field. There had recently been very effective cooperation between the respective police authorities on a matter of serious concern. There was one question affecting police cooperation which had just come to his attention. A few years ago a Police Consultative Council had been appointed. He had just discovered that it had not been operating in the last year. This had gone into abeyance when Mr. Haughey was Taoiseach, and had not yet resumed activity because of doubts shared by the Commissioner of Police in the Irish Republic and the Chief Constable in Northern Ireland about reviving it before progress had been made in settling an allegation of conspiracy between the police authorities of the Republic and a senior policeman in Northern Ireland to frustrate the course of justice in a case involving the brother-in-law of the former Minister of Justice in the Republic. The respective police authorities had taken the matter up; the authorities in the Republic had clear evidence of collusion. The Irish authorities had hoped that a British Chief Constable would carry out an investigation. It was unfortunate that because of this matter the Consultative Council was not in operation. The Prime Minister commented that it was probably better not to revive the Council in a bad atmosphere. In other words we should first solve the particular question raised by Dr. FitzGerald. Dr. FitzGerald said that the new Commissioner of Police and the new Head of Security in the Republic of Ireland were very reliable and most anxious to cooperate with the authorities in Northern Ireland. It would be helpful if the British Government could try to get things moving. The Prime Minister asked Sir Robert Armstrong to follow this matter up.

/Dr FitzGerald

Dr. FitzGerald said that he was also anxious to make progress with the McGovern case. A warrant had been sent to the Irish authorities but had had to be returned on 8 June because it contained an error. On another matter, the Attorney General had told him before he left Dublin that he was confident that the courts were now moving in a positive direction and that many of the former difficulties would be removed.

Turning to the recent General Election, he was greatly disturbed by the quite extraordinary extent of intimidation and impersonation by Provisional Sinn Fein (PSF). There had been a striking case of a woman in Londonderry who had refused to bow to intimidation. He had little doubt that the SDLP had lost Armagh because of impersonation by PSF. It was important to realise that the great increase in the Sinn Fein vote was attributable to a large extent to the fact that they were contesting more constituencies, i.e. the outcome did not represent a popular surge in favour of Provisional Sinn Fein. The Prime Minister commented that, whatever the explanation was, the situation was very worrying. She had discussed the matter with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland who had asked whether there was not some way of persuading the SDLP to take part in the Northern Ireland Assembly. Dr. FitzGerald said that he did not see any possibility of this at present but it might come in the future. He wondered whether, now that John Hume had been elected to Westminster, the Prime Minister would be willing to receive him. The Prime Minister said that perhaps Mr. Hume would like to come to discuss with her the problem of impersonation in elections. It would be best if he wrote a letter to her which could form the basis for a meeting. Dr. FitzGerald asked whether it would not be possible for the Prime Minister to see him as the leader of a new Party who had arrived in the House of Commons. The Prime Minister recalled that she used to receive Mr. Gerry Fitt, who was a very brave man. It was her habit to see leaders of Parties. A meeting with Mr. Hume would, of course provoke demands for meetings from others, including Mr. Paisley.

/Dr. FitzGerald

Dr. FitzGerald said that the Forum had made a good beginning. It had produced a series of ideas which showed sensitivity to Unionist thinking. He hoped that Unionists other than politicians would give evidence to the Forum so that people in the Republic would come to understand Unionist attitudes. It was not certain whether Mr. Haughey would continue to cooperate over the Forum. The hope was that positive results would be produced which, while expressed in terms of Irish nationalism, would be constructive for Northern Ireland and give a new impetus to North/South relations. He was determined that the Forum should finish its proceedings by the end of the year. This could create a better atmosphere for moving forward on other fronts.

He believed that there was agreement between us that the final details of the Encounter organisation should be discussed between officials. Sir Robert Armstrong commented that he was to see Sir David Orr next week. The Taoiseach had already appointed the Irish representative.

The Prime Minister said that she thought it would be possible for there to be another Anglo/Irish Summit. She knew that Dr. FitzGerald would prefer this to be held before the Forum had finished its work. We would look at possible dates with a view to planning to meet before the Forum concluded.

The discussion ended at 0900.

After the meeting, the attached press release was agreed at official level.

A.S.C.

PRESS STATEMENT

As arranged earlier this year at the European Council in Brussels, the Taoiseach, Dr. Garret FitzGerald, met the Prime Minister the Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher briefly in Stuttgart today.

In a friendly and constructive atmosphere, they discussed matters of mutual concern, including arrangements for future contacts between the two Governments.

19 June 1983

EUROPEAN COUNCIL: STUTTGART 17/19 JUNE: MEETING BETWEEN
THE PRIME MINISTER AND DR GARRET FITZGERALD

DRAFT PRESS STATEMENT

The Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP, and the Taoiseach of the Republic of Ireland, Dr Garret FitzGerald TD, met today in Stuttgart in the margins of the European Council. Their talk lasted about minutes. It was informal in character and covered Anglo-Irish relations, Northern Ireland and other international issues [specify as appropriate].

Draft

As arranged earlier this year at the European Council in Brussels, the Taoiseach, Dr. Garret FitzGerald, met the Prime Minister The Right Honourable Mrs. Margaret Thatcher briefly in Stuttgart today.

They discussed matters of mutual concern in a friendly and constructive atmosphere and agreed arrangements for future meetings.

19th June, 1983

C O N F I D E N T I A L

IMMEDIATE STUTTGART

GRS 350

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FM FCO 171455Z JUN 83

TO IMMEDIATE STUTTGART

TELEGRAM NUMBER 16 OF 17 JUNE

FOLLOWING FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY TO PRIME MINISTER AND

PRIVATE SECRETARY TO SECRETARY OF STATE

MIPT: EUROPEAN COUNCIL STUTTGART: MEETING WITH DR FITZGERALD
THE MCGOVERN CASE

LINE TO TAKE(UNDERLINED)

1. I AM NATURALLY ANXIOUS THAT ALL SUSPICIONS ABOUT THIS MATTER SHOULD BE CLEARED UP AS FAR AS POSSIBLE. I GATHER VARIOUS POINTS HAVE BEEN PUT TO THE RUC. TO GET ANYWHERE WE NEED HARD EVIDENCE NOT JUST ALLEGATIONS. I KNOW THE CHIEF CONSTABLE WILL ENSURE THAT ANY EVIDENCE IS FULLY INVESTIGATED.

BACKGROUND(UNDERLINED)

2. THE MCGOVERN CASE CONCERNS THE ARREST BY THE RUC OF A KEY WITNESS IN THE TRIAL OF THE BROTHER-IN-LAW OF THE THEN MINISTER OF JUSTICE IN THE REPUBLIC IN MR HAUGHEY'S GOVERNMENT, SHORTLY BEFORE THE IRISH GENERAL ELECTION LAST YEAR. THE BROTHER-IN-LAW WAS ACQUITTED FOR LACK OF EVIDENCE. THE CASE ACQUIRED NOTORIETY IN THE REPUBLIC, AND ALLEGATIONS WERE MADE IN THE PRESS OF COLLUSION BETWEEN THE TWO FORCES AT THE BEHEST (IT WAS SUGGESTED) OF THE IRISH MINISTER. THE SUSPECTED ORIGINATOR IN THE REPUBLIC WAS THE THEN HEAD OF SPECIAL BRANCH UNDER MR HAUGHEY WHO RESIGNED FOLLOWING DR FITZGERALD'S APPOINTMENT AS TAOISEACH.

3. THE CHIEF CONSTABLE OF THE RUC HAS MADE CLEAR HIS WILLINGNESS TO INVESTIGATE ANY EVIDENCE OF COLLUSION OFFERED BY THE GARDA, ALTHOUGH HE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO FIND ANY EVIDENCE INDEPENDENTLY WITHIN THE RUC AS A RESULT OF THE INQUIRIES HE HAS CONDUCTED. THE CHANCES OF FINDING EVIDENCE OF A KIND WHICH

/CAN BE

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CAN BE SATISFACTORILY PURSUED ARE VERY SLIM. THE GARDA COMMISSIONER RECENTLY WROTE TO THE CHIEF CONSTABLE WITH A NUMBER OF POINTS CONCERNING A SENIOR OFFICER, ALTHOUGH NO EVIDENCE TO SUBSTANTIATE THEM. THE DIFFICULTY IS THAT THE LETTER FROM THE GARDA IS NOT IN A FORM WHICH PROVIDES USEFUL LEADS WHICH CAN BE FOLLOWED UP BY INVESTIGATION. THE CHIEF CONSTABLE FOLLOWED THE PROPER COURSE AND DREW THE LETTER FROM THE GARDA TO THE ATTENTION OF THE POLICE AUTHORITY. IT IS LIKELY THAT THE POLICE AUTHORITY WILL INSTRUCT HIM TO SEEK FURTHER EVIDENCE FROM THE GARDA IN A FORM WHICH CAN BE PURSUED.

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TO IMMEDIATE STUTTGART

TELEGRAM NUMBER 15 OF 17 JUNE

FOLLOWING FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY TO PRIME MINISTER AND
PRIVATE SECRETARY TO FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY

EUROPEAN COUNCIL STUTTGART: MEETING WITH DR FITZGERALD

1. THE NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE HAVE ASKED US TO PASS ON THE
FOLLOWING.

THE COMMISSIONER OF THE GARDA LAST NIGHT WARNED THE RUC
OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT DR FITZGERALD MIGHT RAISE WITH THE
PRIME MINISTER WHEN THEY MEET IN STUTTGART THE MCGOVERN CASE.
IT CONCERNS ALLEGATIONS OF COLLUSION BETWEEN THE TWO FORCES LAST
YEAR WHEN THE RUC ARRESTED A KEY WITNESS IN A CASE IN THE
REPUBLIC AGAINST THE BROTHER-IN-LAW OF THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE
IN MR HAUGHEY'S GOVERNMENT, WHICH WAS THEN IN OFFICE. THERE HAS
BEEN NO PREVIOUS INDICATION FROM THE IRISH THAT THIS MIGHT COME
UP, AND WE DO NOT CONSIDER IT IS AN APPROPRIATE TOPIC FOR A
MEETING OF THIS KIND. MIFT CONTAINS A NOTE FOR THE PRIME MINISTER
IN CASE DR FITZGERALD MENTIONS IT.

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