

PRIME MINISTER

The events of Thursday night at Brighton mean that we must go very slow on these talks if not stop them. It could look as if we were backed into making concessions to the Republic.

ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS: NORTHERN IRELAND

Attached are Robert Armstrong's proposed speaking notes for his further secret talks with the Irish Government next Monday and Tuesday.

I have been through them carefully and believe they are generally within guidelines already agreed. You will want to look in particular at:

Note 1. Mixed Law Courts. This examines a number of suggestions for allowing Irish judges to sit in Northern Ireland courts and finds difficulty with all of them. It must be right to take a very restrictive view of the possibilities here.

Note 4. Practical Policing Measures. Using the Regional Crime Squad model for an anti-terrorist force to operate both sides of the border is an idea worth exploring.

Note 5. Institutionalized Consultation. This is heavily qualified by Note 6 on Devolved Government, and leaves pretty restricted scope for such consultation.

Note 10. Draft Communique for the Anglo-Irish Summit. This seems fine as a starting point, although the Irish will inevitably want more.

I could not possibly accept this. See Paper 10

Taken as a whole, the speaking notes should continue the process of scaling down Irish expectations.

Since the talks start early on Monday, it would be helpful to know on Saturday if possible if you approve the speaking notes or want changes made.

C.D.P.

P.S. Douglas Hurd is content - see attached
minute (at back).

11 October 1984