

PRIME MINISTER

Anglo/Irish Summit: 18/19 November

There are three points on which a decision is needed:

1. Announcement of the Summit. The Irish want to announce it on Friday night or at latest Saturday. We would prefer not to announce it at all, but have to recognise that, realistically, it is likely to leak once police and airport authorities are involved.

*Not as early as Friday. It makes no sense at all to announce it before arrival.*

Agree that we can have discretion to announce it, but at the last possible moment, to be agreed with the Irish?

2. Press briefing. Clearly no press will be allowed at Chequers, though you may want to agree to a photocall at the end of the meeting. Dr. FitzGerald plans to give a press conference at the Irish Embassy on the Monday afternoon. Bernard thinks that you should give a press conference too. I am less sure that it is desirable.

Agree to photocall at Chequers at the end of the Summit?

*Yes no*

Agree to give a press conference in London on the Monday afternoon?

*What for?*

3. Briefing for Bernard. He has not been brought into the talks so far. But it will make his role difficult if he is not fully briefed. (We know that Dr. FitzGerald's press spokesman is fully informed of the Armstrong/Nally talks.)

*Yes no*

Agree that Bernard should be at Chequers for the Summit (though not attending the most restricted meetings)?

Agree that he should attend the briefing meeting for the Summit, even though this will inevitably deal with the Secret talks?

*Yes no*