



Ref. A084/3017

MR POWELL

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Anglo-Irish Summit

When I met the Irish Ambassador this morning, we had some discussion of arrangements for the Anglo-Irish Summit.

2. The Ambassador said that Dr FitzGerald might decide to come over on the Saturday, and spend the Saturday night at the Irish Embassy. In that event he might bring his wife and daughter. I suggested that this would need to be considered in the light of the Prime Minister's wish that there should be no announcement until after the Taoiseach had arrived at Chequers. The Ambassador obviously thought that this might lead the Taoiseach to delay his departure from Ireland until the Sunday afternoon.

3. I confirmed that the Prime Minister would entertain the Taoiseach and his two Ministerial colleagues for the night at Chequers. Other members of the party would be found accommodation at a nearby hotel. I said that I thought that the arrangements for that were in hand.

4. I said that the Prime Minister was proposing that the first engagement should be dinner at 7.30 pm on the Sunday evening. The Ambassador asked whether this was 7 o'clock for 7.30 or 7.30 for 8.00. I am afraid that I did not know the answer.

5. The Ambassador and I thought that attendance at the meals (dinner on Sunday night and lunch on Monday) should be restricted to the three Ministers on each side, the two Ambassadors, three senior officials on each side and one Private Secretary on each side. Other members of the delegations would need to be provided with some kind of "out-mess".



6. In response to a question from the Ambassador, I said that I thought that there would be no tete-a-tete on the Sunday evening. I thought it probable that the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach would move straight into tete-a-tete at 9.30 am or 10.00 am on Monday morning. We recognised that the Taoiseach might wish the Tanaiste to be in on the tete-a-tete for the first ten minutes. The Tanaiste would be perfectly content to leave after that. Otherwise the only people present for the tete-a-tete would be Mr Nally and me, plus a Private Secretary.

7. I said that the Prime Minister envisaged that there would be a plenary session towards the end of the Monday morning. When that began would depend on the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach at the time. We envisaged that the other four Ministers (with accompanying officials) could meet elsewhere in Chequers while the tete-a-tete was going on, to discuss "other matters".

8. I confirmed that the intention was that the meeting should conclude at the end of lunch on Monday. The Ambassador confirmed that the Taoiseach would return to London for a press conference thereafter. I said that I thought that the Prime Minister had not yet decided whether to give a press conference herself; but if she followed past form she might decide not to give a press conference but to make a statement in the House of Commons the following afternoon.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RCA'.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

13 November 1984