



File
18

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

ANGLO/IRISH RELATIONS: NORTHERN IRELAND

The Prime Minister has noted the contents of your minute of 5 March reporting the outcome of your informal and exploratory talk with the Secretary of the Irish Government.

With regard to your paragraph 8, the Prime Minister is prepared to meet the Taoiseach in the margins of the European Council in Brussels on 19/20 March. I do not think that we can, at this stage, commit the Prime Minister to a meeting of one hour in length. I suggest that you tell Mr. Nally that we will make arrangements in the usual way - i.e. that there should be contact between the staffs of the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach on arrival in Brussels.

I am copying this minute to Brian Fall (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and John Lyon (Northern Ireland Office).

A. J. COLES

6 March 1984

SECRET AND PERSONAL