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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

MR. GOODALL

CABINET OFFICE

ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS: VISIT BY THE TANAISTE

Thank you for your minute of 7 June.

The Prime Minister has considered the possibility of receiving Mr. Dick Spring but is inclined to doubt the wisdom of this. She would have little to say to him and expects that she will be seeing the Taoiseach at Fontainebleau.

You will have noted from Derek Hill's letter of 14 June that the Northern Ireland Secretary believes that, if the Prime Minister decides not to see Mr. Spring, it will be tactful to offer a meeting with Sir Geoffrey Howe or Mr. Prior himself rather than a simple refusal.

In the light of these factors, the Prime Minister would be grateful if you could explain to the Irish Ambassador that she will unfortunately not be able to receive Mr. Spring during his visit to London. You will doubtless consult the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Northern Ireland Office and, if possible, offer an alternative meeting with the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary or the Northern Ireland Secretary.

I am copying this minute to Mr. Ricketts (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Mr. Sandiford (Northern Ireland Office) and Mr. Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

A. J. COLES

11 June 1984