



Prime Minister

CDP
26/K.

PRIME MINISTER

ANGLO-IRISH TALKS

I am sending to your office separately a record of my long private talk with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Justice over dinner in Dublin last night. You may like to look at this.

2. Although the tone was friendly, some of the talking was quite tough and I found the outcome rather depressing. I wanted to press Noonan on security cooperation and in particular to get his help in overcoming the problems over cooperation at senior levels between the RUC and Garda. But we ran into the familiar complaints about the RUC being insecure, unacceptable in its present form to the minority in the Province, and therefore not a satisfactory partner for cooperation. Noonan was genuinely worried about the future of extradition. Nor did we make progress on home-made explosives, the effective control of which on both sides of the border would be a great advance.

3. Both Ministers made it clear that if they were to risk their necks in a referendum campaign they needed substantially more of an Irish dimension in the North than we were offering in the Armstrong-Nally talks. It would not be enough to have an Irish resident in Belfast with a consultative voice, mainly in security matters. I tried gently to deflate expectations about the Summit and to suggest that the substantial risk which they would be taking with a referendum on Articles 2 and 3 was perhaps greater than the benefit which even a successful outcome would have on Unionist opinions.

Conceivably/....



4. Conceivably the Taoiseach may be more flexible. Even these two Ministers were not suggesting that we had to accept their present far reaching ideas if the Anglo-Irish dialogue was to be preserved. But they were fearful that the SDLP vote would pass to Sinn Fein. They have little understanding of the importance of the RUC and the UDR in the Province or of the dangers which we would run if we were to abolish the UDR and restructure the RUC to suit Irish preconceptions.

5. I am sending copies of this minute to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and Sir Robert Armstrong.

DH.

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26 October 1984