



Secretariat ⁵⁴
 Agreed at the PM's
 meeting on 31 October
 to offer Chequers.
 CDP 31/10.

Ref. A084/2901

MR POWELL

Anglo-Irish Summit: Venue

One of the matters which I shall need to discuss with Mr Nally at my meeting with him at the end of this week is the venue for the meeting between the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach scheduled for 19 November. I hope that we can use the meeting already arranged for 2.30 pm tomorrow to be given instructions on this.

2. The JIC have produced a threat assessment, of which I attach a copy.

JIC (84) (IA) 44
 d/30/10/84

3. Given the threat assessment, I think that we should rule out staying the night in Ireland, and rule out the use of Ashford Castle or Dromoland Castle. I believe, if the meeting is to take place in Ireland, the threat to the Prime Minister's safety could best be minimised by holding the meeting at Baldonnell Airport (the military airport for Dublin). There is a precedent for this: the only meeting which Mr Heath had in Ireland when he was Prime Minister took place at Baldonnell Airport. It would be perfectly possible for the Prime Minister to fly in and out the same day; and the facilities would be adequate for holding a meeting. The Prime Minister should be aware that the airport is named after Sir Roger Casement. But the disadvantage of that would be out-weighed by the security advantages.

4. But I understand that, when the Taoiseach wrote to the Prime Minister after the Brighton bombing, he said that, if the Prime Minister would prefer to hold the meeting on British soil, he would quite understand and that would present him with no problems. That offer has recently been formally renewed by Irish Government officials. I should have thought that



the best course would be to take advantage of the Taoiseach's offer and to hold the meeting at Chequers.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

31 October 1984

CONQUEROR