

SS.
CDP
- 31/X.

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING OF MINISTERS: NORTHERN IRELAND

The meeting needs to settle four main points:

i) The general line for Sir Robert Armstrong to take in the further round of Armstrong/Nally talks on 2 November. In the light of what you have recently said, I assume this should be to make clear to the Irish that there is no question of substantive decisions at the forthcoming Summit but that Ministers should take stock and authorise further detailed discussions between officials without any fixed deadline.

ii) The specific question of the sort of conclusions or statement, if any, should be issued at the Summit. If nothing else there will need to be agreement on what to say to the press.

iii) What the Northern Ireland Secretary should say to the Northern Ireland Parties between now and the Summit.

iv) Whether, in the light of security advice, to go ahead with the Summit in the Republic? In his manuscript letter to you Dr. FitzGerald offered to come here after all if it would make it easier. Sir Robert Armstrong will be making a recommendation based on security advice. I think you should take up Dr. FitzGerald's offer and hold the Summit at Chequers.

Cabinet Office briefing is attached.

CDP

C.D. Powell

31 October 1984