

Mr. Powell.



CABINET OFFICE

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With the compliments of

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Dear David

Possible meeting between the Prime Minister
and the Taoiseach

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's minute of 21 November referred to the possibility of a meeting between the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach during the latter's visit to the United Kingdom next weekend to receive an Honorary Degree from Keele University or in the margins of the European Council a week later. Michael Lillis raised the question of a meeting this weekend with the Northern Ireland Secretary on the evening of 24 November, the Irish Ambassador raised it with Timothy George yesterday and Dermot Nally has been in touch with Robert Armstrong's office. Dorr and Nally both mentioned that Dr FitzGerald would be seeing Mr Kinnock in London this weekend.

2. I consulted Number Ten regarding the Prime Minister's diary. A meeting this weekend would not be convenient. It was agreed, subject to FCO and NIO views, that we should inform Noel Dorr of this, and go on to say that a meeting in the margins of the European Council should be possible, when the afternoon of Saturday 6 December would be the most convenient time.
3. After securing FCO and NIO concurrence, I spoke to Dorr at noon today (after we had made several unsuccessful attempts to contact him or Nally yesterday evening and early this morning). I pointed out that, as Dorr already knew, the Northern Ireland Secretary would be seeing the Taoiseach on 28 November.
4. Dorr said he would inform Dublin. It was left that the Taoiseach's office would be in touch with Charles Powell direct about the arrangements for a meeting on the afternoon of 6 December. Dorr was aware that it might be difficult to fix a definite time in advance.
5. I take it that the FCO will co-ordinate a brief in the proper form. The Cabinet Office would be grateful to see the draft.

Yours ever

Christopher
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