

PRIME MINISTER

MS

MEETING WITH DR. FITZGERALD

It is possible that Dr. Fitzgerald will say to you that he is not at all happy with the way in which meetings of the Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental Conference are conducted. He feels that Tom King's approach is too adversarial.

From other sources, it is pretty clear that both Tom King and Peter Barry are hard-hitting in these meetings. But they recently had a tete-a-tete dinner to try to establish a better personal relationship. This may improve matters. Personally, my sympathies lie with Tom King - I think Barry is difficult and 'green': moreover the Irish Government's performance under the agreement has been less than adequate.

If the Taoiseach does raise this, I suggest that you move the problem out of personalities and into issues. The conduct of the meetings will become a lot easier when we feel that we are getting really improved security co-operation from the Republic and real help with the SDLP.

CDP

Charles Powell
18 February 1986

JALAKS