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Ref. A086/554

MR POWELL

Mr Nally has just spoken to me to say that, so far as the Taoiseach is concerned, he will be hoping to cover three points at his meeting with the Prime Minister this evening:

- a. the working of the Intergovernmental Conference
- b. Sellafield
- c. Irish signature of the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, which the Taoiseach will have announced at lunchtime.

2. Mr Nally asked what were our thoughts about a communique. I said that I had not discussed this with the Prime Minister but my inclination was to think that it was not a meeting which called for a formal communique. The two press spokesmen could be briefed to indicate to journalists the subjects discussed, but it might be difficult to have a formal communique which referred to Sellafield without having to go, however summarily, into the points made by the Taoiseach and the Prime Minister's response. Mr Nally said that he did not know whether the Taoiseach wanted a communique; if he did, it would only need to be two lines or so.

3. We ended up by agreeing that this is something which the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach will have to decide when they meet.

4. In case of need I have prepared a brief announcement, a copy of which I attach. But I think that it would be much



better not to have any formal announcement, if that can be avoided.

5. I also attach a list of possible subjects which press spokesmen could be given as an indication of the range of matters covered in the discussion.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

19 February 1986

DRAFT COMMUNIQUE

The Taoiseach, Dr Garret FitzGerald TD, called upon the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher FRS MP, at 10 Downing Street on Wednesday 19 February 1986 at 5.15 pm.

2. In the course of their meeting the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach reaffirmed the commitment of the two Governments to the Anglo-Irish Agreement which they signed on 15 November 1985. They discussed developments in Anglo-Irish relations since the Agreement and the work in progress in the Intergovernmental Conference set up under the Agreement.

3. The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach reaffirmed the commitment of the two Governments to the fight against terrorism, and agreed that arrangements for improving cross-border security co-operation should continue to be pursued with vigour and determination. The Prime Minister welcomed the Taoiseach's announcement earlier in the day of the Irish Government's decision to sign the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism.

4. The Taoiseach expressed the concern felt in Ireland about the levels of recent radioactive discharges from British Nuclear Fuels Ltd's plant at Sellafield. The Prime Minister said that she was aware of Irish concern in this matter. Any leaks of radioactive material were of course regrettable. Recent incidents should, however, be seen in perspective: the leaks that had occurred had been relatively minor. By contrast BNFL had achieved major reductions in liquid discharges into the Irish Sea in the last seven years and further reductions were in prospect.

DRAFT GUIDANCE

The Taoiseach, Dr Garret FitzGerald TD, called upon the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher FRS MP, at 10 Downing Street on Wednesday 19 February 1986 at 5.15 pm.

2. Among the subjects discussed were the working of the Anglo-Irish Agreement of 15 November 1985 and the Intergovernmental Conference set up under the Agreement; the Irish Government's decision, which the Prime Minister welcomed, to sign the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism; and the implications of recent leaks of radioactive material at Sellafield.