

Ref.A084/917

MR COLES

A.C. 22/3.

J.A.

I should report two further exchanges which I had in the margins of the European Council in Brussels on Tuesday 20 March.

2. First, Mr Nally said that, if the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach managed to exchange a few words on Anglo/Irish matters, the Taoiseach hoped that the Prime Minister would not express any thanks for the extradition of Mr McGlinchey. Something he said made me think that perhaps the operation had not gone entirely according to plan, though the outcome was satisfactory.

3. Secondly, during the course of the evening I ran into the Taoiseach himself. This was after he had walked out of the meeting of the European Council. He said that he doubted whether it would now be possible for the Prime Minister and him to have a talk on Anglo/Irish matters; both of them were (as he put it) "un peu distrait". I said that I understood that he might be in London on other business in June; he suggested that he could probably, if it seemed desirable, manufacture an excuse to come to London on other business before then. I said that I did not doubt that Mr Nally and I could have another meeting in the meantime, if that seemed appropriate.

4. I am sending copies of this minute to the Private Secretaries to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

22 March 1984