

SUBJECT FILED ON:

IRELAND:

Situation Pt 16

Ref. A084/1717

MR POWELL

European Council: Meeting with the Taoiseach

Mr Nally has been in touch today about arrangements for a meeting between the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach in the margins of the European Council. He said that the Taoiseach would be happy to meet the Prime Minister at Fontainebleau, or to come and see her on his way back from Fontainebleau in London.

2. In the light of Mr Coles's minute of 11 June and of a brief conversation with you I rang Mr Nally to say that the Prime Minister was looking forward to seeing the Taoiseach at Fontainebleau. Arrangements could be made on the spot when both concerned were there.

3. Mr Nally said that the Taoiseach would be perfectly content with that. He would hope, however, that there could be somewhat longer time for the meeting than on previous occasions, since he was likely to want to have some "substantive" discussion. Mr Nally did not tell me any more about that, but said that the Irish Ambassador would be coming in to tell me what was in mind.

4. I have not been expecting to go to the European Council on this occasion; but in view of this development on the Irish side I think that it would be helpful if I could be present (as Mr Nally certainly will be) when the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach meet. I hope that the Prime Minister will agree that I can be added to the Fontainebleau party.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

13 June 1984

do Euro Pol. Euro Council

Prime Minister (2)

CDP
19/6



ms

Ref. A084/1786

MR POWELL

The Irish Ambassador rang this afternoon with two messages:

(1) The Taoiseach will (as the Prime Minister already knows) be staying in London overnight on Tuesday 26 June, after the meeting of the European Council at Fontainebleau. The Taoiseach wanted the Prime Minister to know that on the morning of 27 June he and Mr Spring, by whom he will be accompanied, will be seeing Opposition leaders: Mr Kinnock, Dr Owen and Mr Steel.

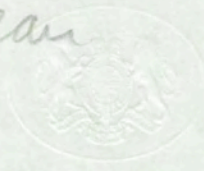
(2) The Taoiseach was anxious that the Prime Minister should know that he would be arriving in Paris on Sunday 24 June, and going on to Fontainebleau on Monday 25 June. I said that I understood that the Prime Minister was planning to leave London on the morning of 25 June so as to arrive in time for lunch at Fontainebleau on that day. As in the past, early after lunch on 25 June either you or I would be in touch with Mr Nally with a view to arranging a time for the Prime Minister's meeting with the Taoiseach.

RA

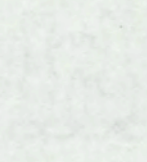
ROBERT ARMSTRONG

19 June 1984

EURO PO: Fontainebleau



COMPTON



file 504



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

European Council:
Meeting with the Taoiseach

The Prime Minister has confirmed that she would prefer to see the Taoiseach at Fontainebleau rather than in London. I agree that arrangements for the meeting can be made on the spot.

The Prime Minister agrees that you should join the party for Fontainebleau.

C.D. Powell
14 June 1984

A handwritten signature in the bottom right corner of the page.

PRIME MINISTER

Sir Robert Armstrong has had an enquiry from Mr. Nally whether you would prefer to meet the Taoiseach at Fontainebleau or in London on the way back from the European Council. You noted on the papers about Mr. Spring's visit to London that you expected to see the Taoiseach at Fontainebleau. Sir Robert Armstrong proposes to confirm this. Agree?

Yes not

Assuming you agree this, Sir Robert Armstrong proposes to join the party for Fontainebleau. Agree?

C.D.P.

13 June 1984



Copy to PC withdrawn
on instructions
from ASE

Ref. A084/1066

MR COLES

A.S.C. 6/4
h.a.

Anglo-Irish Relations

- I have now spoken to Mr Nally about possible dates for an informal call by the Taoiseach.
2. I said that 6 June would be impossible for the Prime Minister.
 3. I queried 26 June, as that was the day on which the European Council were meeting. Mr Nally said that he thought that what the Taoiseach had in mind was an informal talk with the Prime Minister in London, on his way back from the European Council to Dublin.
 4. We agreed that it was really impossible to go any further forward until the report of the Forum had been published. Mr Nally said that he thought that, in the light of that, the Taoiseach might even want to suggest an informal call on the Prime Minister sometime in the middle of May. I said that I knew that the Prime Minister's diary was very full at that time, but I would obviously take advice so that, if and when Mr Nally rang back after the Forum had reported, I was in a position to say how the Prime Minister would respond.
 5. Mr Nally made it clear that he envisaged a further meeting between him and me before the next talk between the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach, whenever that might be held.
 6. I am sending copies of this minute to Mr Appleyard and Mr Lyon.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

5 April 1984

HL



cc FCO
NIO

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Anglo/Irish relations

In your minute of 19 March you gave an account of your conversation with Mr. Dermot Nally in the margins of the European Council on that day. I have since seen John Lyon's letter of 22 March.

I have not yet put to the Prime Minister the suggestion that the Taoiseach should call on the Prime Minister during one of the two visits which he may be making to London in June. As you say, 6 June would be extremely difficult because the Prime Minister will be very pre-occupied with preparations for the London Economic Summit which begins the next day. But can it really be the case that the Taoiseach is also coming to London on 26 June? This is the day on which the European Council meets. You may care to check the date with Mr. Nally since it would be very much easier to arrange a meeting between the Taoiseach and the Prime Minister after the Economic Summit than before it.

I am copying this minute to Mr. Fall (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and Mr. Lyon (Northern Ireland Office).

A. J. COLES

23 March 1984

NR

STRICTLY PERSONAL
AND CONFIDENTIAL

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

PERSONAL
CONFIDENTIAL

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE

WHITEHALL

LONDON SW1A 2AZ



John Coles Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
SW1

22 March 1984

Dear John,

Mr Prior has seen Sir Robert Armstrong's minute of 19 March about his conversation with Mr Nally.

Mr Prior thinks it helpful that Dr FitzGerald should not be looking for a formal summit before the Autumn, and that it would be advantageous if the Prime Minister were able to meet his wish to let him call upon her informally when visiting London for other purposes in June. It is very much in the UK interest to move from formal summit meetings which inevitably arouse high expectations and pressure for substantial comminqués to informal low-key meetings which present Anglo-Irish relations as natural and routine.

Mr Prior has had several meetings with Mr Barry with both parties saying nothing substantial to the press. Unlike some of his predecessors, Mr Barry has kept to his undertakings not to undermine the privacy of the discussions by informal briefings. While recognising that a Prime Ministerial meeting, however informal, attracts a different scale of attention, he hopes it may be possible to edge further towards informality by meeting Dr FitzGerald's request for a call in June.

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AND CONFIDENTIAL

PERSONAL
CONFIDENTIAL

I am copying this letter to Brian Fall and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever,

John Lyon

J M LYON

PERSONAL
CONFIDENTIAL

162 Ans
Mtg with
Tanserch
Pt 7

MR COLES

A.S.C. 19.
3

ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS

I spoke to Mr. Dermot Nally in the margins of the meeting of the European Council at Brussels on Monday, 19 March at 3.45 pm.

He asked when it would be convenient for the Prime Minister to talk to the Taoiseach. I said that the Prime Minister was anxious to keep free as much time as possible on the morning of Tuesday, 20 March to prepare herself for the day's proceedings in the European Council, and was likely therefore to have her conversation with the Taoiseach in the course of their informal gatherings, perhaps at dinner time this evening. I supposed that at this stage the Taoiseach would not want to do much more than give her a preliminary reaction to the ideas which I had recently put to Mr. Nally, and that the next stage on that was likely to be a second round of discussions between us.

Mr. Nally confirmed that that was likely to be the Taoiseach's position on those matters, although he would also want to give the Prime Minister some account of where the proceedings on the Forum for a New Ireland now stood. The present expectation still was that the report of the Forum would be published in the second week of April, and there was no reason to expect any surprises on its contents, though that could still change. I said that, if the report talked about "joint authority", it might be helpful if it could distinguish "joint authority" from "joint responsibility" as clearly as possible.

Mr. Nally said that, with the European Elections coming in June, and the 12 July and 12 August dates coming up, the Irish Government were likely to want to play the Forum report long and low: they would not want it to feature strongly in the European Elections. Thus it seemed unlikely that the time would be ripe for a further bilateral summit between the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach before the autumn. Nonetheless the Taoiseach attached importance

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- 2 -

to being able to talk to the Prime Minister about Anglo-Irish matters in the margins of this meeting of the European Council and next June's meeting. He would be coming to London to give a lecture on Wednesday, 6 June. I said that might be a very difficult date for the Prime Minister; not only was it very shortly before the European Elections, but it was the day before the London Economic Summit. Mr. Nally said that the Taoiseach might also be coming to London for a function at the Inner (or Middle) Temple on 26 June; that might provide another occasion on which he could meet the Prime Minister for an informal exchange.

I am sending copies of this minute to Brian Fall (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and to Derek Hill (Northern Ireland Office).

REA

19 March, 1984

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