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Prime Minister ① 16

Ref. A084/2246

MR POWELL

In practice it will be difficult for Mr. Prior to visit Dublin except late August/early September. Agree to let him go, with careful attention to press handling? CJD 3/8.

Before it was known that the Taoiseach would be coming to see the Prime Minister on 3 September, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland had received an invitation from Mr Barry, the Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs, to visit Dublin before he leaves office. The Secretary of State would like to accept this invitation and make a day trip to Dublin on 31 August.

2. The Taoiseach's visit to the Prime Minister is being presented as for the purpose of discussing European Community business, and may well primarily be about that, though there will no doubt be some discussion of Anglo-Irish affairs. If the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland visits Dublin either shortly before or shortly after the Taoiseach's visit, there is perhaps a danger that more significance will be read into it than it warrants, and there could be speculation that European Community business is a cover for a visit by the Taoiseach to discuss other matters such as Northern Ireland.

3. In the circumstances the safest course would be to ask the Secretary of State not to pay a farewell visit to Dublin shortly before or after the Taoiseach's visit. But the Prime Minister may think that it is unnecessary to be as cautious as that: it might be possible to agree that the Secretary of State's visit to Dublin should go ahead on 31 August, provided that it is clearly presented as a courtesy farewell visit and has no significance in relation to the Taoiseach's visit to the Prime Minister.

Yes - it can't be called a farewell visit because other arrangements will still be in train

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ROBERT ARMSTRONG

3 August 1984

May with
Taroach



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a SG*

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

8 August 1984

Dear Peter,

Prime Minister's Meeting with Dr. FitzGerald:
3 September

I have now seen a copy of Dublin telegram 379 proposing that the Taoiseach's party on 3 September should consist of Mr. Nally, Mr. Donlon and Mr. Fogarty, plus possibly Mr. Barry.

Before this news was received, the Prime Minister had reached the provisional view that on our side those present should be the Foreign Secretary, the Chancellor or the Economic Secretary, Sir Robert Armstrong and Mr. David Williamson.

At the Prime Minister's request, we are consulting the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (via Mr. Robert Andrew) to ascertain whether he too would wish to be present.

*Yours ever,
David*

Peter Ricketts, Esq., (David Barclay)
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
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*file 507
CFO*

MRS. GOODCHILD

Meeting and Lunch with Dr. FitzGerald:
3 September

Further to my letter of 8 August to Peter Ricketts about attendance at the above meeting, I have now heard from the Northern Ireland Office that Mr. Prior thinks it sensible for him not to be present.

David Barclay
15 August 1984

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FM DUBLIN 071545Z AUG 84
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 379 OF 7 AUGUST 1984
INFO ROUTINE UKREP BRUSSELS

YOUR TELNO 151: MEETING WITH DR FITZGERALD

1. DONLON HAS NOW CONFIRMED DR FITZGERALD'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S INVITATION TO A MEETING AT 12.00 NOON ON 3 SEPTEMBER FOLLOWED BY LUNCH. DR FITZGERALD INTENDS TO MEET PRESIDENT MITTERRAND DURING HIS CURRENT HOLIDAY IN FRANCE TOWARDS THE END OF AUGUST. HE WILL ALSO CALL ON CHANCELLOR KOHL TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES OF AGREEMENT ON BUDGETARY MATTERS BEFORE SEEING THE PRIME MINISTER.

2. I ASKED WHOM THE TAOISEACH WOULD BRING WITH HIM: HE SUGGESTED IT WOULD PROBABLY BE NALLY, DONLON AND FOGARTY, TOGETHER WITH MR BARRY IF AVAILABLE. I EMPHASISED THE PRIME MINISTER'S WISH THAT THE MEETING SHOULD BE VERY RESTRICTED. I HAD NO INDICATION THAT IT WAS PROPOSED THAT YOU SHOULD BE PRESENT. DONLON REPLIED THAT THEY WERE IN OUR HANDS AND THEY WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF WE WOULD SUGGEST THE FORMAT OF THE ENCOUNTER.

3. I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO REPLY. I SHOULD ALSO BE GRATEFUL FOR CONFIRMATION THAT YOU WISH ME TO BE IN LONDON ON THIS OCCASION.

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PS/MR RIAKIND
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PRIME MINISTER

LUNCH FOR DR. FITZGERALD

You have agreed to see Dr. FitzGerald for a talk on EC
budget questions on 3 September and to give him lunch. I
 suggest that you make it a small working lunch ^{with} Geoffrey
 Howe, ~~will be in Brussels for a special Foreign Affairs~~
~~Council so you might have Mr. Rifkind from the FCO, the~~
 Chancellor or the Economic Secretary, Robert Armstrong and
 David Williamson. To avoid speculation that the purpose of
 the visit is to discuss Irish matters, it might be better
 not to have Mr. Prior (Robert Armstrong could, of course,
 advise on any Irish questions).

Agree a list on these lines?

Provided he
 agrees that is wise. He may
 prefer to come.

Yes

C.D.P.