

Prime Minister

There is not much chance that the 5/6 September Budget Council will settle the problem, and it will have to go to the September Foreign Affairs Council. Tactically it would be better to see the Taoiseach between the two. But it's hard to refuse an earlier meeting if he presses hard. You could do 31 August or 3 September. Agree to offer this? C.J.P. 31/7.

Ref. A084/2203

MR POWELL

When I was talking to Mr Nally yesterday on other business, he reverted to the Taoiseach's wish for a meeting with the Prime Minister in late August or early September.

2. The proposition had been that the Taoiseach might come and the Prime Minister for an informal talk on his way back to Ireland from a holiday in France, in the last week of August. It was suggested that European Community business might provide the cover for such a visit, though in practice the Taoiseach would want to talk mainly about Anglo-Irish affairs.

3. I said to Mr Nally that I doubted whether a meeting between the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach on Anglo-Irish affairs would be useful as soon as that. I also indicated that the Prime Minister would have many other preoccupations at the end of August and in early September, before she left for her overseas trip.

4. Mr Nally was clearly inclined to agree that the time had not yet come for a meeting between the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach on Anglo-Irish business; but he said that, in view of recent developments in the Council of Ministers on the budget issues, the Taoiseach now believed it essential that he should have a meeting with the Prime Minister to discuss European Community business before the meeting of the Budget Council on 6 and 7 September. The Taoiseach is keen to do everything possible to see that the problems are resolved at that meeting and do not fester through the autumn, and intends to have a series of meetings with Community Heads of Government in the days immediately before the meeting in the hope of making that possible. He would be prepared to come either on this way back from France or as part of a whistle stop tour of Community capitals or on a special trip



from Dublin. If he came, he would no doubt also want to talk about Anglo-Irish affairs.

5. I was asked to tell the Prime Minister of the Taoiseach's thoughts on this, and to convey a indication of the Prime Minister's response to Dublin before the Taoiseach leaves for his holiday on Thursday 2 August.

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Approved by
ROBERT ARMSTRONG
and signed in his absence.

31 July 1984