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From the Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service

Sir Robert Armstrong GCB CVO

Ref. A085/1002

1 April 1985

My dear David,

Meeting record attached

At the end of the Taoiseach's meeting with the Prime Minister in Brussels on 30 March, he very briefly mentioned a problem in connection with the provision of evidence by a Swiss bank for the legal case now underway in the Irish Republic about the IRA funds which were confiscated as a result of the recent legislation.

The Taoiseach subsequently spoke about this in a little more detail to me; and, for this reason, I agreed with Charles Powell that I should record this particular part of the discussion.

The Taoiseach's mind was more than usually difficult to fathom, but the point appeared to be this. They are seeking to establish for the purposes of giving evidence a chain through which the money was laundered before it reached Dublin. They have assembled the evidence save for what the Taoiseach described as the last link in the chain, and that is the Swiss bank (through which the money presumably passed to Dublin). It appears that they will need not only written evidence from the Swiss bank, but somebody from the bank to come and testify to that evidence in the Irish court. The Taoiseach wondered whether we could use our good offices to help in this respect. In that connection he referred mysteriously to a law or an agreement (I was not quite sure which) of 1939 between us and the Swiss Government. He said that they would be very grateful for any help which we could give. I promised to look into the matter.

I should be very grateful if you could pursue this matter to discover if possible what the Taoiseach has in mind and see whether we can do anything to help. It may be that I ought to

/ask

A D S Goodall Esq CMG

ask Dermot Nally (who heard the conversation) for fuller and better particulars; but I thought that I would have a word with you in the first instance.

Yours ever
Robert

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