

CM

PRIME MINISTER

ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS

This is the first meeting of OD(I). The main purpose is to test out the reactions of a wider circle of your colleagues to the sort of agreement with the Irish Republic which looks attainable.

The main point which needs to be established is that the three aspects of an arrangement all need to be agreed simultaneously, viz:

- the Irish dimension;
- explicit Irish Government recognition of the constitutional status of the North;
- a firm undertaking from the Irish Government that John Hume and the SDLP will co-operate in moves towards devolution. (This may be the most difficult, but I don't see how you can go ahead without it).

Decisions needed are:

- (i) should we now hand over our revised paper to the Irish Government?
- (ii) is the next step to have further official discussions, followed by a Ministerial meeting?
- (iii) do we continue to refuse to be pinned down on the date of a summit?

C.D.P.

23 April, 1985