

PRIME MINISTER

ANGLO-IRISH TALKS: NORTHERN IRELAND

You have a meeting tomorrow morning to settle Robert Armstrong's instructions for the next round.

His assessment is that the Irish Government are trembling on the brink of an agreement but need a concession on either joint courts or the role and deployment of the UDR to tip them over the edge. Since we can't budge on the former, we should consider whether we can offer more on the latter.

Points for decision at your meeting are:

- (i) do we stand firm on mixed courts despite strong Irish pressure? (Some slightly amended wording is proposed: see annex C).
- (ii) can we offer the Irish Government the assurance (see paragraph 17) that we shall ensure that a higher proportion of UDR operations are undertaken jointly with the RUC; and that the Catholic population will see evidence of this by the end of October? The Chief Constable is content.
- (iii) can we agree to hold the Summit at the Royal Hospital at Kilmainham in Dublin? The Taoiseach is very much opposed to a two-site Summit.
- (iv) can we make provisional arrangements for a Summit on Monday 28 October? It is possible in diary terms.
- (v) should the press conference at the Summit be in the 'normal' format? The Taoiseach wants to limit it to statements with no questions. Bernard thinks this is impossible.

CDP

CHARLES POWELL

11 September 1985