



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*Sir Robert Armstrong

ANGLO-IRISH TALKS: NORTHERN IRELAND

The Prime Minister had a meeting this morning with the Northern Ireland Secretary, the Foreign Secretary and you to discuss the line which you should take at the next session of your talks with Mr. Nally on Northern Ireland.

Mixed Courts

It was agreed that you should make clear to the Irish side Ministers' apprehension that any reference to mixed courts would jeopardise the prospects of gaining acceptance for the Agreement as a whole. Our preference would therefore be to omit any reference to them. The Irish side might themselves conclude that it was better to have no reference at all than the very restricted undertaking to consider the possibility of mixed courts which would be the most we could concede. If, however, the Irish side insist upon a reference, you have authority to propose the text in Annex C to your minute of 11 September (with the substitution of "terrorist offences" for "certain offences"). In doing so, you should stress that the undertaking to consider the possibility of mixed courts is in no way a guarantee that we shall at the end of the day agree to them. You should also stress that this point (as indeed the draft as a whole) is subject to decision of Cabinet.

UDR

It was agreed that you may give the Irish side an assurance that a higher proportion of UDR operations would be undertaken jointly with the RUC and that the Catholic population would see evidence of this by the end of October.

The point was made that, from the point of view of Unionist sensitivities, it would be a help if the new policy was introduced just before signature of the Agreement.

Location of a Summit

No final decision was reached on this, though it was agreed to drop the idea of meeting at two separate locations. The Prime Minister's preference is to avoid holding the meeting in the Republic. She would be prepared to consider Hillsborough.

Dates

It was tentatively agreed that, to leave time for a debate (which might require two days) before the prorogation of Parliament, the aim should be to sign the Agreement on 23 (or 24) October with debate taking place on 28/29 October. This would need to be discussed with the business managers.

I am sending copies of this minute to the Private Secretaries to the Northern Ireland Secretary and the Foreign Secretary.

CDP

12 September, 1985.

JD3ACR