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Ref. A085/2635

MR POWELL

*Let us have  
look at the  
ding you  
? for now?*

*Prime Minister  
The Taoiseach plans  
to telephone you  
at 14.30 tomorrow.  
You will have to  
tell him you  
simply can't do it  
before 15 number  
COP  
14x*

Anglo-Irish Relations: Northern Ireland

Thank you for your minute of 13 October about the timing of a possible Anglo-Irish Summit.

2. I have had a further discussion with Mr Nally in the margins of our latest meeting.

3. The Taoiseach remains deeply concerned about the prospect of delaying the Anglo-Irish Summit beyond the date fixed for the Social Democratic and Labour Party Conference (8-10 November). If an Anglo-Irish Agreement can be signed and published before that date it will be part of the facts of the situation when the Conference meets. If it is not, there is considerable danger of resolutions being moved and passed which would make it difficult if not impossible for the SDLP to support the Agreement.

4. He is also worried that, following all the leaks and stories in the press, both the unionist and nationalist parties in Northern Ireland and the Opposition in the Republic are stepping up their attempts to wreck the process in advance. He fears that, if this process is allowed to go on for too long, unchecked by any finality, the prospects of being able to conclude the Agreement would get progressively less and less.

5. I made it clear to Mr Nally that we were not in a position to plan on a date before 15 November.

*X  
I gather that Mr King shares this worry, and believes that we should think of bringing the date forward if we can.*



6. I think it possible that the Taoiseach may seek to speak directly to the Prime Minister on this matter.

RTA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

14 October 1985

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