



*82APX*  
*15*  
*14*  
bc: Sir P. Cradock

*ME INSHRM*

## 10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT: PRACTICAL MATTERS

Thank you for your minute of 6 November raising a number of practical matters about the Anglo-Irish Agreement. I have obtained the Prime Minister's views on them. To take them in order:

- (i) The Prime Minister will make the initial statement on the Anglo-Irish Summit on Monday 18 November. The Chief Whip sees no difficulty about warning MPs to expect a statement on the Monday once news of the Agreement is made public;
- (ii) The Prime Minister confirms that the debate should be in the week beginning 25 November. I understand the Chief Whip takes the view that the Government should not necessarily volunteer a two-day debate. It will be for the Government's business managers to settle the date(s) in the week 25 November. The Prime Minister could not manage 27 November which is the date of the Anglo-German Summit;
- (iii) The Prime Minister agrees that the Command Paper should be presented jointly by her and by the two Secretaries of State, and that it should be distributed on the morning of Monday 18 November;
- (iv) The Prime Minister thinks that the Westminster Party leaders must be briefed before the Summit. We shall therefore fit them into the diary on the evening of Thursday 14 November. Can I assume that the Northern Ireland Office will arrange for the Northern Ireland Party leaders to be available on the Friday? (We should of course make the arrangements only at the last minute);
- (v) It is unlikely that the Prime Minister will be able to see Mr. Utley, although I do not absolutely exclude it.

I am copying this minute to the Private Secretaries to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Northern Ireland Secretary.

Charles Powell

7 November 1985

PRIME MINISTERANGLO-IRISH NEGOTIATIONS

The points for decision in the attached minute are:-

- |  | <u>Yes</u>                          | <u>No</u>                           |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| i) confirm that you will make a statement to the House on Monday 18 November? Since this is unusual, the Whips will need to trail it on Friday 15 November (once the meeting is public knowledge).   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| ii) agree that the debate should be on Tuesday 26/Wednesday 27 November? The Irish will debate on 19/20 November in the Dail, but I don't think this matters.  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| iii) agree that the Command Paper should be presented jointly by you and to the Secretaries of State?  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| iv) agree that it should be distributed on 18 November, the day of your statement? It would be difficult to do so on 15 November, the day of the agreement, since the Command paper should include the Communique which won't be finalised until that day. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| v) agree to try to fit in briefings of all Party leaders on 15 November, doing the 'mainland' ones on your return from the Summit?   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

They would have to be warned in advance since its a Friday.

C D P

6 November 1985Charles Powell