

SECRET AND PERSONAL



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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

Sir Robert Armstrong

The Prime Minister agrees that you should inform Mr. McFarlane in advance about the date of the Anglo-Irish Summit. But she would not wish you to do this until the afternoon of 13 November.

(C. D. POWELL)

12 November 1985

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. D. Powell'.

SECRET AND PERSONAL



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Prime Minister

Ref. A085/2890

MR. POWELL

Agree with RIA should
Call Bud McFarlane re date -
Yes not but not until Wednesday?
CDM:lei

At the Prime Minister's meeting on 9 November I reported that I thought that I had almost been too successful in confusing the Americans about the likely date of the Anglo-Irish Summit: both the White House and the State Department took it from what I was saying that it was likely that the Summit would not take place until after President Reagan had returned from Geneva on 21 November.

2. If the White House is to be ready with a statement when the Anglo-Irish agreement is signed - assuming that we stick to our existing plans - I ought to give Mr McFarlane sufficient notice for him to be able to complete the preparation of a draft statement (which he said would be done within the White House).

3. If the Prime Minister is content, I should like to send --- Mr McFarlane a message confirming the actual date, as soon as we know that the Irish Government have finally agreed. That should be during the course of tomorrow afternoon. In telling Mr McFarlane of the date, I would not tell him of the place; and I would emphasise the need for extreme discretion.

RIA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

11 November 1985

DRAFT MESSAGE FROM SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG TO
THE HON ROBERT C MCFARLANE, WHITE HOUSE

Dear Bud,

I thought that I should let you know without delay that we have now sorted out our remaining problems in relation to the Anglo-Irish agreement, and firm plans are being made for the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach to meet and to sign the agreement on Friday 15 November. An announcement will probably be made at about 1200 hours GMT (0700 hours Washington time) *that day.*

2. Could I once again emphasise the need for extreme discretion about this date? You will understand all the security reasons why we wish to confine advance knowledge of the date as narrowly as we possibly can.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Armstrong