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CABINET OFFICE
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19 APR '83
FILING INSTRUCTIONS
FILE No. _____

MR GOODALL

cc Mr Facer
Mr Colvin

Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental Council

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I have seen a copy of Mr Colvin's minute of 18 April.

2. When the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach met in Brussels, they agreed to a resumption of official contacts between London and Dublin without publicity, on the basis of the Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental Council. The Prime Minister emphasised that it was necessary to proceed slowly. She was clearly prepared to contemplate proceeding with the idea of an "Encounter" organisation. In subsequent conversation with Mr Nally, I agreed with him that we should meet, as the Steering Committee of the AIIC, after Easter to consider how the "Encounter" project might be carried forward and to discuss any other business that might arise. I invited Mr Nally to come to London for this purpose, and Mr Nally accepted the invitation. We agreed to be in touch after Easter about dates.

3. It would be consistent with the Prime Minister's general approach that we should wait for Mr Nally to take the initiative. I note from Mr Colvin's minute that he is likely to ring me up this week. I think that the right course is for me to await that call and then to fix a date during the first half of May for a meeting. At such a meeting I should wish to be accompanied not only by you and Mr Colvin but also by Mr Eyers from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and by someone from the Northern Ireland Office.

RTA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

19 April 1983