

Ref: B06794

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SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONGcc Mr Eyers, FCO  
Mr Boys-Smith, NIOEuropean Council: Meeting between the  
Prime Minister and the Taoiseach

Mr Dempsey, the Minister at the Irish Embassy, telephoned this afternoon with a message from the Taoiseach's office about the proposed meeting between the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach in the margins of the Stuttgart European Council. There were four points.

2. The Irish recalled that on similar occasions in the past there had been a preliminary meeting between yourself and Mr Nally shortly after arrival at the Council venue. They assumed that the same would apply this time and would welcome confirmation that this would be agreeable to you. Secondly they wished to confirm that Mr FitzGerald would be hoping for "agreement in principle" on the establishment of the Encounter Organisation, on the understanding that the announcement would not be made until later and the details could be settled separately by officials. Thirdly, they would be grateful to know the name of the person we proposed to appoint as British joint chairman of Encounter. Finally, Mr Dempsey said that the two main subjects which the Taoiseach would hope to cover in his conversation with the Prime Minister were

- a. the implications for Anglo-Irish relations of the General Election results in Northern Ireland; and
- b. future measures to improve Anglo-Irish relations.

But Mr Dempsey emphasised that the Taoiseach did not envisage any formal agenda and hoped to keep the conversation as informal as possible.

3. I said that <sup>at his time</sup> the Irish approach to the meeting appeared consistent with our own thinking. I undertook to transmit the message to you and let him have an answer as soon as possible.

David Goodall

13th June 1983

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