SECRET

cc FCO
NIO

12

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

MR. GOODALL
CABINET OFFICE

Anglo/Irish Summit: Programme

Thank you for your minute of 20 October.

The Prime Minister is content with the proposed programme for the Summit subject to the following points:

(a) The tête-à-tête between herself and the Taoiseach will be attended by note-takers on either side. It may be that 45 minutes will be too short. The tête-à-tête will therefore continue as long as necessary.

(b) This may involve a rather shorter plenary session.

In addition, the Prime Minister has confirmed that she does not wish to give a joint press conference. Mrs. Thatcher has also further considered Ministerial participation in the Summit. In the light of John Holmes's letter of 20 October she has decided that she would not wish to ask Ministers other than the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Northern Ireland Secretary to join her.

I am copying this minute to Mr. Ricketts (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and Mr. Lyon (Northern Ireland Office).

A. J. COLES

24 October 1983

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PRIME MINISTER

Anglo/Irish Summit : 7 November

The Cabinet Office have suggested the following programme which has not yet of course been put to the Irish.

0950	Participants arrive at Chequers
1000	Tete-a-tete between yourself and the Taoiseach. Other Ministers meet with officials in another room.
1045	Coffee
1100	Plenary
1300	Lunch
1430	Departure

Some questions arise:

(a) Is a 45 minute tete-a-tete long enough?

(b) I understand that Dr. FitzGerald is not asking for a joint press conference but wishes to brief selected Irish journalists afterwards. Shall we now abandon the idea of a joint press conference?

(c) Ministerial participation. You asked me to consider whether it would be a good idea for the Home Secretary or the Trade and Industry Secretary to attend. The Departments concerned have given thought to this. There is no business to justify their attendance - if we include the Home Secretary the Irish will raise matters such as the transfer of prisoners from British to Northern Ireland jails which we would rather not discuss. I suggest therefore that we stick to yourself, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Northern Ireland Secretary as the British team. Agree?

A.J.C.

21 October 1983

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Ref: 06881

MR COLES

Anglo-Irish Summit Programme

I attach a self-explanatory letter from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office covering two draft telegrams to Dublin about arrangements for the Anglo-Irish Summit.

2. The draft telegrams seem to me consistent with what I know of the Prime Minister's wishes for the Summit and I have no amendments to suggest unless the Prime Minister is ready to rule out the idea of a joint press conference altogether (this would be welcome to the Irish). If you are content I will so inform the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

David Goodall

20th October 1983

A D S GOODALL

SECRET

8

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

20 October 1983

A D S Goodall Esq CMG
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London SW1

CABINET OFFICE
B...509.....
20 OCT 1983
FILING INSTRUCTIONS
FILE No. .....

Dear David,

ANGLO-IRISH SUMMIT: PROGRAMME

1. I enclose draft telegrams to HM Ambassador, Dublin, instructing him to pass detailed proposals on the programme for the Summit to the Department of Foreign Affairs. I should be grateful to know if we may despatch them. The Irish Embassy will have many consequential arrangements to make, and I therefore propose to call in Paul Dempsey to give him the programme also as soon as the telegrams are approved.

2. As you know, the Prime Minister has deferred making a decision about how she wishes to handle the press after the Summit meeting (John Coles' letter to John Holmes of 7 October). John Goulden has agreed to contact Bernard Ingham in order to find out informally what arrangements the Prime Minister is likely to prefer. We have, however, as you know been given clear indications both by Mr Lillis and the Irish Ambassador that Dr FitzGerald is likely to opt for a briefing session with selected Irish journalists at the Irish Embassy in London following the Summit, and the programme is drafted accordingly. The idea of a joint press conference therefore seems likely to fall by the wayside unless the Prime Minister wished to press for it.

Yours ever,

Patrick

P H C Eyers
Republic of Ireland Department

cc: S W Boys Smith Esq, NIO(L)
R D Gordon Esq, Protocol Department

SECRET

OUT TELEGRAM

		Classification and Caveats	Precedence/Deskby
		SECRET	IMMEDIATE

ZCZC	1	ZCZC
GRS	2	GRS
CLASS	3	SECRET
CAVEATS	4	
DESKBY	5	
FM FCO	6	FM FCO
PRE/ADD	7	TO IMMEDIATE DUBLIN
TEL NO	8	TELEGRAM NUMBER
	9	ANGLO-IRISH SUMMIT: PROGRAMME
	10	1. An outline programme for the Summit meeting on 7 November is
	11	contained in MIFT. Please put this to the Irish authorities
	12	stressing that for security reasons it remains our wish that
	13	knowledge of the date and details should continue to be closely
	14	held.
	15	2. My second IFT contains a series of questions for the Irish.
	16	Grateful to know the answers to these as soon as possible. Two
	17	glosses on them for your own information only: the Prime
	18	Minister has yet to decide how she wishes to handle the press,
	19	but it is unlikely that she will wish to hold a joint press
	20	conference. And we should much prefer not (not) to have to
	21	organise a dinner on 6 November.
///	22	
//	23	HOWE
/	24	NNNN
	25	

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword
File number	Dept: RID	Distribution: As attached.
Drafted by (Block capitals): P H C Eyers		
Telephone number: 233 3994		
Authorised for despatch		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	

OUT TELEGRAM

		Classification and Caveats	Precedence/Deskby
		SECRET	IMMEDIATE

ZCZC	1	ZCZC
GRS	2	GRS
CLASS	3	SECRET
CAVEATS	4	
DESKBY	5	
FM FCO	6	FM FCO
PRE/ADD	7	TO IMMEDIATE DUBLIN
TEL NO	8	TELEGRAM NUMBER
	9	MIPT: ANGLO-IRISH SUMMIT: PROGRAMME
	10	7 NOVEMBER
	11	0950 Participants arrive at Chequers. Greeted by Prime
	12	Minister, Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and
	13	Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.
	14	1000 Tete-a-tete between Prime Minister and Taoiseach.
	15	Other Ministers meet, with officials, in another room.
	16	1045 Coffee.
	17	1100 Plenary session.
	18	1300 Lunch
	19	1430 Departure.
	20	
	21	HOWE
///	22	NNNN
//	23	
/	24	
	25	

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword
File number	Dept: RID	Distribution: As attached.
Drafted by (Block capitals): P H C EYERS		
Telephone number: 233 3994		
Authorised for despatch		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	

OUT TELEGRAM

	Classification and Caveats	Precedence/Deskby
	SECRET	IMMEDIATE

ZCZC	1	ZCZC
GRS	2	GRS
CLASS	3	SECRET
CAVEATS	4	
DESKBY	5	
FM/FCO	6	FM FCO
PRE/ADD	7	TO IMMEDIATE DUBLIN
TEL NO	8	TELEGRAM NUMBER
	9	MY 2 IPT: ANGLO-IRISH SUMMIT: PROGRAMME
	10	1. Grateful if you would ask the Irish authorities for their
	11	views on the points set out below:
	12	(a) we understand that the Irish Ministerial party will wish
	13	to arrive on Sunday 6 November. It would seem most
	14	convenient that their aircraft should land at Heathrow
	15	(RAF Northolt is not open on Sundays). Grateful for
	16	Irish views on this. When would they expect their
	17	aircraft to arrive? What would its details be?
	18	(b) Grateful to know if Mrs FitzGerald will be
	19	accompanying the Taoiseach, so that we can make
	20	arrangements for separate entertainment if she wishes it.
	21	(c) We understand that the Irish are unlikely to require
///	22	entertainment on 6 November but should be grateful for
//	23	confirmation.
/	24	(d) Grateful for details of overnight accommodation
	25	requirements for Irish party.

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword (e)
File number	Dept RID	Distribution As attached.
Drafted by (Block capitals) P H C EYERS		
Telephone number 233 3994		
Authorised for despatch		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

		Classification and Caveats		Page
		SECRET	IMMEDIATE	2

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(e) We understand from Mr Lillis and the Irish Ambassador that Dr FitzGerald is likely to wish to hold a press briefing at the Irish Embassy. We should be grateful for confirmation of this. It is not possible to hold press conferences at Chequers (the nearest place to Chequers where a press conference can conveniently be held is RAF Halton).

(f) We understand that the Taoiseach is likely to be accompanied by the Tanaiste and Mr Barry. We should be grateful for confirmation that this is correct and also for an indication of what officials are likely to come.

(g) Accommodation for lunch at Chequers is very limited (18 is the absolute maximum) but it is usual to make arrangements for officials not lunching with the Heads of Government to eat at a nearby hotel, e.g. ~~the Bell Inn~~ at Aston Clinton. We should be grateful for an indication of which officials the Taoiseach would like to lunch at Chequers.

2. It may be helpful for the Irish to know for the planning of their press conference that it is usually sufficient to allow one ~~hour (? one~~ and a quarter hours~~)~~ for the journey between Chequers and central London.

HOWE

NNNN

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword

CONFIDENTIAL

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

MISS WILKINSON
CABINET OFFICE

Anglo/Irish Summit

Thank you for your minute of 21 October.

BF

I agree that those whom you list should be invited to the briefing meeting on 4 November.

Incidentally, since we remain concerned to protect the date of the Summit it might be better if these papers were graded "Confidential".

A. J. COLES

24 October 1983

CONFIDENTIAL

Ref. A083/2982

MR COLES

Prime Minister's Briefing Meeting for Anglo-Irish Summit: 7 November 1983

I should be grateful for your agreement to the following Ministers being invited to attend the Prime Minister's briefing meeting at 3.00 pm on Friday 4 November 1983:

Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

2. You may also wish the following officials to be invited:

Sir Antony Acland	FCO
Sir Julian Bullard	FCO
Mr P H C Eyers	FCO
Sir Philip Woodfield	NIO
Sir Ewart Bell	Head of Northern Ireland Civil Service
Mr A J E Brennan	NIO
Mr G L Angel	NIO
Mr Alan Goodison	Her Majesty's Ambassador, Dublin
Sir Robert Armstrong)	Cabinet Office
Mr A D S Goodall)	

Lindsay Wilkinson

LINDSAY WILKINSON

21 October 1983

21 OCT 1983