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MR. ALEXANDER

Anglo-Irish Summit

I minuted the Prime Minister on 16th ~~October~~ about my visit to Dublin last week and the meeting which I had with the Taoiseach. In that minute, I set out Dr. Fitzgerald's ideas about the format of the Anglo-Irish Summit, the agenda and Ministerial participation.

2. The Summit will be the second of the higher profile meetings which the Prime Minister and the then Taoiseach agreed on when they met in London in May last year. It will be the first since Dr. Fitzgerald became Taoiseach, but the principal common objective will be the same for him as for his predecessor and for Her Majesty's Government, namely to continue and to be seen to continue the process of developing close relations between the two countries.

3. A more detailed assessment of the British and Irish objectives is set out in Annexes A and B. These objectives do not cover some of the detailed questions raised in my minute of 16th October: the publication of the Joint Studies; the setting up of a Parliamentary counterpart to the Anglo-Irish Co-operation Council; the British response or non-response to the Taoiseach's constitutional initiatives through a restatement of the guarantee and the idea of a joint Press Conference at the end of the Summit. These are all points which will have to be taken further with the Irish in the light of the Prime Minister's comments on my minute, both before the Summit and during the Summit itself. But, as a broad indication of both sides' aims, I think that these lists of objectives will suffice as guidance for Departments in the preparation of briefs. I attach at Annex C a proposed list of briefs.

4. I should be grateful if you could let me know whether you are content with these objectives and the proposed list of briefs, subject of course to further preparatory talks with the Irish which will be taking place over the next three weeks. The briefing meeting for the Summit is due to take place on Thursday,

CONFIDENTIAL



CONFIDENTIAL

5th November. I will try to arrange to let you have the briefs by close of play on Friday, 30th October in time for the Prime Minister's weekend box. But there are to be further talks with the Irish, probably on 29th and 30th October and this may mean some supplementary briefs reaching you early in the week of Monday, 2nd November.

RA

Robert Armstrong

20th October 1981





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ANNEX A

UK OBJECTIVES

1. To maintain, and if possible, enhance the Irish commitment to our common efforts against terrorists.
2. To confirm HMG's continuing commitment to closer Anglo-Irish relations and the Joint Studies and to confirm our willingness to keep the Irish Government fully informed about our policies in Northern Ireland.
3. To make clear to the Taoiseach the limits imposed on HMG's freedom of action by the facts of life in Northern Ireland.
4. As a necessary contribution to those objectives, for the Prime Minister to establish a good working relationship with Dr. Fitzgerald.
5. To gain Irish support on European Community issues of concern to us.
6. To influence Irish positions on international questions and to encourage them to work closely with us in the Security Council.

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ANNEX B

LIKELY IRISH OBJECTIVES

1. For Dr. Fitzgerald to establish the kind of working relationship with the Prime Minister which will enhance his ability to achieve early progress on his other aims.
2. To explain Dr. Fitzgerald's ideas on relations between North and South and in particular the role of his plans for constitutional development; and to seek a British response helpful to his advocacy of these changes. To put across his ideas on giving a political dimension to the follow-up to the Joint Studies by involving politicians from Northern Ireland in the process.
3. To press for political progress in Northern Ireland on lines which would preserve the position of moderate Catholic politicians.
4. On EC matters, to emphasise the importance to the Irish economy of the Common Agricultural Policy and the consequent need to safeguard Irish interests in the course of restructuring.
5. On international issues, to assert the Republic's neutral line and separate identity.

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ANNEX C

LIST OF BRIEFS (with suggested lead departments indicated)

- |    |   |                        |
|----|---|------------------------|
| 1. | Steering Brief  | FCO/NIO/Cabinet Office |
| 2. | Republic of Ireland:<br>Political and Economic<br>Situation | FCO                    |

The Joint Studies

- |    |   |                |  |
|----|---|----------------|--|
| 3. | The Joint Studies:<br>Progress and Future     | Cabinet Office | ) in consultation<br>with the govern-<br>ment departments<br>most closely<br>involved in each<br>Study |
| 4. | Institutional Structures                      | Cabinet Office |  |
| 5. | Citizenship Rights                            | Home Office    |  |
| 6. | Security Matters                              | Cabinet Office |  |
| 7. | Economic Cooperation                          | FCO            |  |
| 8. | Measures to Encourage<br>Mutual Understanding | FCO            |  |

Northern Ireland

- |     |                         |     |
|-----|-------------------------|-----|
| 9.  | Political Situation     | NIO |
| 10. | Security                | NIO |
| 11. | Position in the Prisons | NIO |

Other

- |     |                                |     |
|-----|--------------------------------|-----|
| 12. | European Community Issues      | FCO |
|     | Mandate                        |     |
|     | Insurance                      |     |
|     | Air Fares                      |     |
| 13. | International Affairs          | FCO |
|     | Arab/Israel                    |     |
|     | Iran/Iraq                      |     |
|     | East-West Relations and Poland |     |
|     | Afghanistan                    |     |
|     | South Africa/Namibia           |     |